

IAPAN'S THATCHERITE REVOLUTION Hamish McRae on a way out of recession COMMENT, PAGE 19



LAURA ASHLEY **DUMPS THE** CHINTZ **Mumsy look gives** way to new cool



RORY BREMNER'S DIARY ...speaking of the opera, horse racing and Ben Elton

COMMENT, PAGE 19



Newspaper of the Year for photographs INI)F

Wednesday 15 April 1998 45p (IR50p)

Labour plans £2bn Post Office sell-off

By Anthony Bevins Political Editor

MINISTERS are considering plans for the partial privatisation of the Post Office, which could raise as much as £2bn.

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, disa minority shareholding was under active consideration.

Replying to a Commons report on the future of the Post Office, she said that the creation of the board of trade. an independent publicly-owned company would be one of the options considered in a review to be completed by the Autumn.

But Mrs Beckett theo added: "A wide range of other public sector structural options will also be considered, oot excluding: increased scope for joint veotures; public sector

trusts; minority share sales." Those three words - "minority share sales" - slipped out in an obscure document when MPs are away from Westminin the Labour and unioo ranks.

It was a mark of the sensitivity of the issue that oo mention was made of "minority share sales" when Mrs Beckett replied to a planted Commons question on the future of the Post Office last week.

Having said that, "The Government are committed to the Post Office remaining in the Beckett came to exposing the partment of Trade and Indus- striving to attain."

Government's hidden agenda try officials unofficially told rewas in a sentence saying that the review would consider, in particular, "a range of options for partnership with the private sector (such as joint ventures) and for the involvement in employees and customers".

It is less than five years closed yesterday that the sale of since John Major's Tory cabinet was humiliatingly forced to jettison plans for Post Office privatisation drafted by Michael Heseltine, theo president of

> After a backbench revolt, and a threat of Commons defeat, Mr Heseltine produced a wateredoority of shares, and even that was rejected by backbenchersforcing the Cabinet to drop the whole idea in November 1994.

> minute to Mr Major oo the day before that Cabinet meeting took place, reported that ministers had been left with two "fall-back positions" - "the Prescott optioo" which would posed by the Opposition, while retaining it in full public ownership", or "the BP option" under which Royal Mail and Parcelforce would have been converted into a PLC, with permission to sell off 49 per cent

While yesterday's reply from Mrs Beckett did not specify a 49

porters last week that a 49 per cent sale was oow in the frame - something that even the last Conservative Government rejected as too right-wing_

Labour's manifesto said: We will ensure that self-financing commercial organisations within the public sector the Post Office is a prime example - are given greater commercial freedom to make the most of new opportunities."

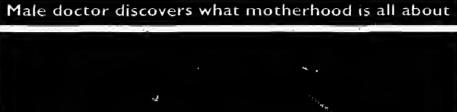
While it might be argued by ministers that a sale of 49 per cent would leave the Post Office under public control, many down plan for a sale of a mi- Labour MPs and the unions would consider such a move to be a betrayal of that pledge.

In evidence to the Commons Trade and Industry Com-Ironically, a confidential mittee last November, the Communicatioo Workers' Unioo said it would even oppose any employee shareholding in the Post Office.

The Post Office told the MPs that it would very much of commercial freedoms pro- dent publicly-owned company - with the Government as sole or principal shareholder". It added: "The Post Office

would particularly welcome the

possibility of employees becoming financial stakeholders in the company. This could be the key to the culture change in employee relations which all the businesses - and most particupublic sector", the closest Mrs per cent sale of shares, De- larly Royal Mail - have been





Dr Tom Pringle in a see-through plastic 'pregnancy suit' as part of a show on the chemistry of love and lust at the Edinburgh Science Festival Photograph: David Cheskin

New inquiry into mystery death of supergun inventor

Exclusive

By Kim Sengupta and Kevin Cahill

A HIGH level British Special Forces team linked to military intelligence were in Brussels the day before the murder of Iraqi supergun designer Gerald Bull in the Belgian capital, according to new evidence discov-

ered by investigators. The inquiry into the mysterious circumstances surrounding his death, which has been dormant for eight years, will this week be re-opened.

The Belgian examining macistrate Christian de Valkeneer received information last weekend about the visit by the defence team who were accompanied by a businessman with MI5 and MI6 links. They visited factories and laboratories owned by PRB, a company which had worked closely with with Mr Bull oo the propellant for the gun. Canadian-born Mr Bull was

one of the foremost international experts on artillery techoology. PRB at ooe stage of problems." owned 38 per cent of his company Space Research Corporation. He was executed with five shots to his head at the door the killing was carried out by Mossad, the Israeli secret service, which had discovered his work for Saddam Hussein...

Last Saturday Mr de Valkeneer received documents on headed notepaper of Astra Defence Systems Ltd, a British company which had acquired PRB, detailing a trip by three meo from the Ministry of Defence Special Forces Staff, to PRB in Brussels between 19 and

21 March 1990. Members of the Special Forces Staff normally deal exclusively with the SAS,

SBS, and military intelligence. The trio were accompanied by Stephan Kock, a non-executive director of Astra Holdings PLC, who had links with both MI5 and MI6. The visitors, says the document, were particularly keen to investigate research and development and production capabilities for "special operational equipment".

The presence of the British special forces team was not known to the Belgian authorities investigating the murder. Mr de Valkeneer, who took over the inquiry last autumn, told The Independent: "We are studying the documents and we are taking this development seriously. This is an important lead. Obviously we would like to talk to the gentlemeo named in it and find out what connections they had with Gerald Bull.

"It is too early to say whether myself or the Belgian police will visit England to follow this up ... There are security aspects here which means there are lots

After acquiring PRB, Astra discovered the company's involvement in the supergun project, and informed MI6. But of his Brussels flat oo the they were told to proceed. evening of 22 March 1990. It has Eleven days before Mr Bull's pergun were found at Teesside Docks, starting a trail which eventually led to the Scott Inquiry into the arms to Iraq



Vicar calls on ministers to legalise heroin



Today's news

Hope for slimmers

A NEW type of anti-obesity rill that compels those who

take it to stick to a low-fat diet

could be available in Britain

Paying for floods HUNDREDS of thousands of

homes in England and Wales

huilt over the last 25 years in

areas which are at an "ap-

preciable risk" of flooding

face higher insurance premi-

ums in the future. Page 4

TEACHERS voted yester-

day for a week of industrial ac-

tion and strikes in their

campaign for a four-day

Vote for strike

teaching week.

later this year.

A VICAR yesterday called on legalising heroin, and suggested that the drug should be sold by a state-run monopoly with a health warning.

The Rev Peter Green, from Dudley, West Midlands, yesterday called for a debate into the drug's illegal status and said that leaving the distribution of beroin in the hands of organised criminals was "fraught with dangers".

His candid remarks coincided with a warning of a heroin

and Excise figures which reveal record seizures of the drug.

Mr Green, vicar at the St Barnabas Church, told The Independent yesterday: "I am reprohibition of drugs such as heroin should be reconsidered. Is it worth considering decrimhaving it supplied by a state monopoly in conjunction with the kind of warning that surrounds the sale of tobacco?

"I'm very concerned that the drug's prohibition is courting a whole stack of appalling probepidemic by the Government's lems. I'm not in favour of hero- wasn't driven by the desire for can have on people. In my own drug tsar Keith Hellawell, fol- in abuse, but my own feeling is profit. The sale would be sur- community, a whole congrega-

believe it is putting a considerable amount of money into the

hands of very dangerous people. "Heroin use can draw people into criminal and sociopathic luctantly of the view that the behaviour. Users often go into burglary, dealing heroin, prostitution and other criminal activities to feed their habits. This inalising the sale of beroin, is because the drug, in the long term, is extremely expensive."

Mr Green, aged 38, said: "My own very strong feeling is that the control of supply should be taken out of the hands of criminals and taken

lowing the release of Customs that prohibition isn't working. I rounded by health warnings of the type that govern tobacco."

The Church of England yesterday said they did not support Mr Green's opinions. A spokesman said: "I don't think anyone who has seen first hand the devastating impact that heroin and its derivatives has on individuals and communities could possibly argue that there should be no restrictions on its

availability." Mr Green's comments have been sparked by what he sees as the "appalling effect" of crime on the community. He said: "I over by a state monopoly which have seen the effect that crime

tion decamped from the evening service to the morning service because two members had been mugged in town and received quite serious injuries the week before. Suddenly, everyone was afraid to go out in the dark.

"There are many reasons for crime but much of it is caused by people supplying their drug habit. I think I am aware of kids being supplied in the vicinity and they are in the hands of unscrupulous people," he said.
"From a theological perspective, this comes under the heading Not everything which is sinful should also be illegal."

Drugs tsar's warning, p5 Leading article, p18

The ten top American Earners

Bath - Bradford ROLEX The hardest part of choosing a Rolex is choosing where to do it.

Lincoln - Middlesb Noningham - Oxford Sheffield, Mondowhall Thorrook - Woking

ALFRED CHILLCOTT & CO Brissol

REACHER & Timbridge Woll

G·O·L·D·S·M·I·T·H·S

WALKER & HALL

American financier is world's highest paid man at £140,874,950 a year

By Matthew Brace

SANFORD I Weill, chief executive officer of the American finance house Travelers Group. should sleep soundly tonight. He is the highest paid man in

the world. With an annual salary of \$230,725,000 (£140,874,950). "Sandy" - as he is affectionately called in the current edition of Business Week - is the new

King of Executive Hill. The magazine lists him as corporate America's biggest earner. The biggest wad of money came from what is called long-term compensation, which

usually means share options and company performance incentive schemes.

His total pay package for 1997 was well above his US rivals and in another league from British executives.

Mr Weill's salary (£39,000 a day) was more than twice that of the next man in the race, Roberto Goizueta, chief executive of Coca-Cola, who weighed in with \$111,832,000 (£68,281,841) a year.

Trailing in third place came Richard Scrushy, chief executive of Healthsouth, of Birmingham, Alabama, with \$106,790,000 (£65,203,322).

The list of British "fat-cats", and Citicorp joined forces in a whose earnings do not generally come close to the stratosoberic levels enjoyed by Americans, is headed by Jan Leschley, boss of the pharmaceutical company SmithKline Beecham. As Britain's highest paid executive, Mr Leschley is currently sitting

on a £66m package made up of share options and annual salary. But the salaries of other top executives pale by comparison. Sir Desmond Pitcher, chairman of NorthWest Water, received £3t0,000 last year, while the least remunerated

water boss got £140,000. Mr Weill's Travelers Group

\$70bn merger last week - making it the biggest financial institution in the world, worth \$156bn. As a result, US financial stocks rose to record highs and put increasing pressure on UK banks to consider mergets.

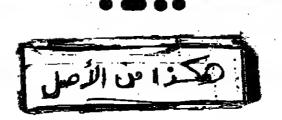
Some City observers believe It is only a matter of time before several of Britain's financial giants will have to join forces to compete with the banking goliaths being created across the Atlantic.

High street banks such as Nat West, Barclays, Halifax, and the Royal Bank of Scotland could be merger or takeover

Total pay, \$m 239,725 111,832 Richard Sc 196,798 101,505 Ray Irani Occidental Patri 84.547 86,842 52,214 51,469 50,887 49,326

candidates and consolidation in the sector could see some of Britain's best-known banking names disappear over the next few years. The American deals will also increase pressure for cross-border deals to create pan-European banks.

INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 ● CROSSWORDS, P28 AND EYE P10 ● TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P12 ● FULL CONTENTS, P2



TOMORROW

- Golden hellos: students cash in on the universities' battle to fill places
- John Lyttle on the new homophobia
- Architecture: switch on to the very best in illuminated buildings
- Trouble at The Met: what's gone wrong for Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorgiou?





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Children's jail stresses village atmosphere

THE Home Office yesterday Home Office unveiled Britain's first jail for children, where youngsters aged between 12 and 14 will be incareerated for up to a year.

On initial inspection, the Medway Secure Training Centre looks more like a sheltered housing scheme, with its twotone brick accommodation room with en suite shower and blocks, double-glazed windows and landscaped gardens which officials said were "designed to create a village green atmos-

greens, this one is closely monitored by closed circuit television cameras. Which is just as well as the centre will shortly be home to some of Britain's most persistent young offenders, the likes of Ratboy. Spiderboy and Center Parcs boy.

It is hardly what Liberal home secretary Herbert Gladstone had in mind when he set up the first reformatory for boys 90 years ago on almost the same site in the Kent village of

The "trainees" admitted to the privately-run new centre, will live in house units of five, each supervised by two members of staff. They will be woken at 7.30am and made to participate in a full day of national curriculum-based schooling, sports and discussions aimed at improving their social skills and selfesteem. Lights go out at 10pm.

The centre's director, Sue Clifton, a former police sergeant who also has 16 years experience in social services, is confident the trainees can be turned away from a life of crime. "They are not the worst young people, the murderers and the rapists. she said. They are the persistent offenders, the muggers and the car criminals.

Most trainees will be boys, but one of the eight houseblocks has been reserved for girls. Each child has their own

unveils new prison for young criminals.

toilet, and a telephone point from which to make calls to approved friends and family.

lan Burrell reports

Within each houseblock there is a television room, with a a red sofa arranged in front of a large screen, and a video recorder. Viewing is regarded as a privilege and dependent on good behaviour.

Trainees, the first of whom will be admitted on Friday, are expected to cook their own breakfast and supper. Each house has a kitchenette with red and white fitted units, a cooker, microwave oven and

Children's home terror

POLICE have been called out to deal with young tearaways than a thousand times in the last 20 months.

Local people say the 17 children at the home are running not and terrorising the local community, while staff are powerless to stop them. Senior police officers are

meeting social services leaders from Sandwell Council, which runs the Harvest Lodge Home, in a bid to table the situation. The home, in Power Regis. West Midlands, has 23 heas, but currently houses 17 children, aged 12 to 16. Police say officers have visited the home 201 times in the first three months of this year. Locals claim their lives are

being ruined by the constant disturbances caused by children who they say mam the local area, vandalising property and abusing people.

washing machine. Lunch and dinner are taken communally in a refectory, which doubles as a eames room for pool and table football. Well-behaved trainces are allowed up to £5 weekly pocket money which they can spend on sweets, magazines and cassettes.

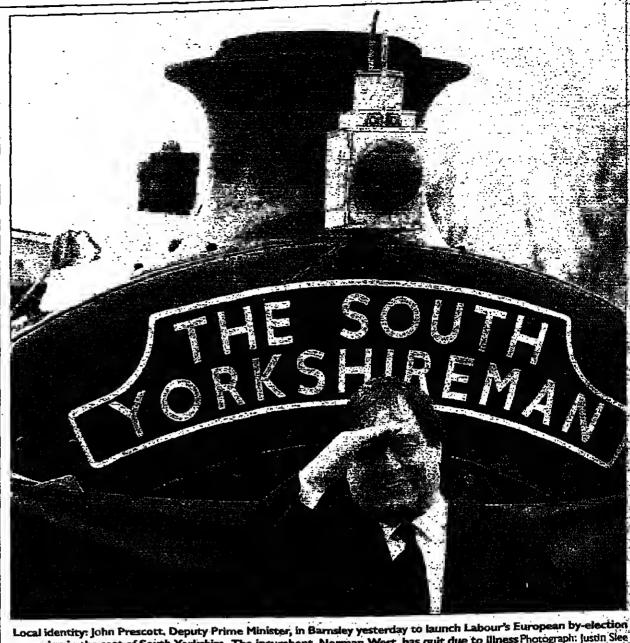
The sports facilities would be the envy of many secondary schools, with a large gymnasium and an outdoor astro-turfed five-a-side football pitch. In the education centre, a small library has already been established. Reporters were intrigued to find book titles including Terrorism and Drugs From Ecstosy to Agony. Also on the shelves was poetry from Benjamin Zephaniah and Roger Mc-

The centre will have nine teachers and 24 training supervisors among a total staff of around 100. Parents are encouraged to visit once a week and overnight accommodation at Home Office expense is available for those travelling long distances.

The centre will cost at least £2.500 per child per week, and possibly double that, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, had opposed the child jails in opposition, but now plans to build four more. The expense has infuriated penul reform groups and the Children's Society, which believe the project will fail.

The new institution will be run by Rebound, a subsidiary of Group 4, and yesterday its staff posed for the cameras in their uniform of stone-coloured trousers and green sweatshirts bearing the company logo. Staff and trainees will address each other by their first oames.

All the staff have been vetted by the police and checked against child ahuse registers. They will not be allowed to enter children's bedrooms on their



campaign in the seat of South Yorkshire. The incumbent, Norman West, has quit due to illness Photograph: Justin Slee

FI chief may help funding inquiry

By Anthony Bevins Political Editor

BERNIE ECCLESTONE, the head of Formula One motor racing, landed in more controversy yesterday when he clashed . with Lord Neill, chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. Lord Neill, who today embarks on an inquiry into party political funding, said at the weekend that Mr Ecclestone

had turned down an invitatioo. to give evidence about his £1m donation to the Labour Party. But yesterday Mr Eccle-

stone: "I am still considering whether to accept an invitation to give evidence to Lord Neill's Committee on Standards in Public Life." A spokesman for the Neill committee said a slot would be found for Mr Ecclestope if he now wanted to give

"He had indicated to us verbally about a week or so ago that it was 'thanks, but no thanks'," the spokesman added. "But if he would like to come, we will find some time for him." Lord Neill, who succeeded Lord Nolan as chalrman of the

"sleaze-buster" committee, has said he would like to ask Mr Ecclestone about the motives for making such a large donation. After the docation was ex-

posed and linked with the Government's efforts to exempt Formula One from a proposed European ban on the sponsorship of sport by tobacco companies, Labour sought Lord Neill's guidance - and he told Labour to send the cash back.

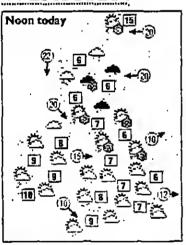
In spite of a suggestion that the money might be diverted instead to a charity, Mr Ecclestone said be wanted his money

back if it was not going to be retained by Labour. With some. difficulty, hecause the party was strapped for each, a cheque was sent back, and cashed.

Any public evidence by Mr Ecclestone is bound to revive Labour émbarrassmeot, but there are a number of controversial characters scheduled togive evidence to the inquiry - not. least Lord MacAlpine, Margaret Thatcher's colourful treasurer, a man who undoubtedly knows where many of the Conservative Party's financial "bodies" are buried.

New

WEATHER



Frequent snow showers will continue to affect the north and north-east of Scotland, some of them heavy and prolonged. That will give turther accumulations especially in the mountains. Librithern keland and the rect of Scotland will also have wintry showers but fewer of them, with better surroy coells. Wates and much of England will have sunny coells and wintry showers South-east England will have can and hill-thow at first but surry spells will develop this attempon.

Outlook for the next few days Thursday will be another cold and showery day with most of the showers still water, North-east Spotland will bear the brunt of the show again. However, across of hete line ment to store celeavy brief braining fall as rain by Friday, when it will ham a liftle less cold On Saturday showers will be confined to the north-east, feaving curry spells in other areas but rain will start to move in from the south-west on Sunday

British most recent available C. chready: O. clean S. sunny: St. skeet	ple b	nun Iar	Fa.to	on local time for Hz.haze, M.m
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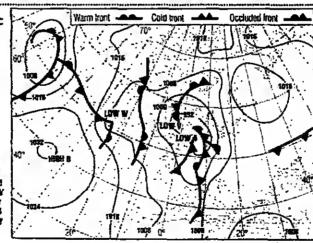
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Atlantic chart,



MICHAEL HANLON WEATHER WISE

CITIES have odd weather.

Oo a drizzly winter day, it is common to see snow-covered cars driving around when only rain has fallen in town. These other visitors from outside the In summer, the heat in cen-

tral London can be stifling. P eople rushing to the coast find that as soon as they cross the M25 the temperature has dropped several degrees; by the time they end up in Brighton or Southend it is distinctly chilly. When gales are battering the countryside, city streets can be an island of calm. Conversely, one can be literally blown over while navigating urban canyons while the suburbs have only a gentle breeze. Buildings and streets have

weather, creating an urban microclimate that can be as different from that found in the suburban hioterland as that found 500 miles away. Greater London, Europe's largest city. has such different weather to the rest of the South-east that going to the Big Smoke can seem like entering a foreign country: In all scasons London is warmer, due partly to the production of heat by buildings, traffic and industry. This is particularly marked at night in winter, the "heat island" efcars belong to commuters, or fect may result in minimum ur-.han temperatures being 5-6C higher than that in the sutrounding countryside.

In general, cities are less windy than non-urban areas, due to the windbreak effect of tall buildings. However, poorly thought out high-rise developments can lead to strong winds and furbulence.

Lastly, although a lack of vegetation and standing water can reduce humidity levels in towns, there is evidence that very heavy rain, particularly in summer, is more common in built-up areas, due mainly to the peculiar thermal properties. a profound influence on the increasing local convection.

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UK lifeline for Iraqi girl with leukaemia

Political Correspondent

fly out of Iraq today with a four-make It means that we can get year-old girl who is to receive leukaemia treatment in the Britain. George Galloway.enlisted the personal help of Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, to get sanctions against the country lifted so that the child could leave.

His move has not, however, attracted universal approval with Iraqi opposition groups and a Labour MP dismissing it

Mr Galloway, MP for Glasgow Kelvin, met Mariam Hamza last month when he visited Iraq to see the plight of sick children. When he returned he asked the Foreign Secretary to mission to the United Nations to pain details of the girl's to let her leave. -

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Although this is the first time such measures bave been Britain, a dozen such children went to Austria for treatment. faree years ago.

that Marlam would die if she was left in Iraq.

"We hope to highlight the plight of thousands of children who are dying because UN: tional Congress, a group which cines in to Iraq," he said. --

"I'm very grateful indeed to Robin Cook and the British government for their timely action-

if we travelled by road it wouldbe a 12-hour journey which
ALABOUR MP is expected to this child is sumply too sick to back to Britain and the life saving treatment Mariam needs all

The MP and the child are expected to fly from Iraq to Jordan today, along with her grandmother, and on to London tomorrow. They will then go on to Glasgow, where Mariam will be treated at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Yorkhill. The cost, between £7,000 and £50,000, will be met by a fund set up by the MP and backed by Arab businessmen and royalty.

Mr. Galloway has called for the lifting of sanctions against Iraq, blaming them for the dire situation in the country's hoshelp. Mr Cook asked the British pitals. However, the Iraqi opposition hlames Saddam bilinger, and points out that UN plight to its sanctions commit-sanctions do not prevent him tee, and the committee agreed, from importing the food and medicine that is needed.

Ann Clywd, Labour MP for Cynon Valley and a long-term taken to bring an Iraqi child to campaigner against Saddam, said it was unfair to give the child special treatment. "Why Ju. child? This happens to be Mr Galloway said yesterday a very pretty, very winsomelooking child. I think it's a huge propaganda coup.".

Nabeel Mesawi, head of political liaison for the Iraqi Naopposes Saddam Hussein, said that the dictator, and not the sanctions, were at the root of the problem. "The only way to resolve this issue once and for all in getting the UN sauctions is by helping the Iraqi people to committee to give us this per- get rid of this regime," he said."



Rescue: MP George Galloway (left) who will accompany Mariam Hamza, 4, on her flight from Iraq to Britain for leukaemia treatment Photograph: PA

THE INDEPENDENT'S Im Appeal has raised numberly £83,000 to help treat more than 2,000 children suffering from leukaemia believed by many to be caused by www. used during the Gulf War.

Will Day, National Direct tor of Care International UK one of the two charities work ing with The Independent said he was delighted at the gen erosity of readers.

"As described so dramatically in Robert Fisk's article, the hospitals in Iraq have very firm ited resources, so the man money is raised the more wijplies we can send to ease the suffering of the young children

"The first step is to work with the Ministry of Health in Baghdad and the hospitals to ensure that the most was untial medicines and anti-cana treatmentsare delivered."

Please send cheques, made out to The Independer iraq Appeal, to: PO Box No 6870, i Canada Square,

Dying child brings out tender side of tough MP

WHEN an MP flies off to foreign parts to rescue a dying child, cynics can be forgiven for wondering if he has an ulterior motive - particularly on a Bank Holiday when the newspapers need a story, writes Fran Abrams.

Even the most hardened scepoc would never say such a thing about George Calloway, though, For one thing the member for Glasgow Kelvin, who was yesterday preparing to bring four-year-old Mariam Hamza back from Iraq for leukaemia treatment, has never been one to court good publicity. For another, he has a tenden-

Mr Galloway was probably not exaggerating when, at the age of 33, he asted that he had already made more enemies than most people had at 63. Certainly, his chances of a Cabinet job were slim even before he told

IN THE NEWS **GEORGE GALLOWAY**

a student audience in October 1994: "I don't give a fack what Tony Blair

If that were not enough to bar the colourful MP from the corridors of power, he is also loathed by the Prime nister's press secretary. As long ago as 1992 Alastair Campbell described Mr Galloway in a Sunday Mirror column as "repulsive", and opined that he was glad the MP would not speak to him. A few months later Mr Campbell classified Mr Galloway's political style as "all widdle and wind".

Mind you, the MP was suing the

Mirror at the time for accusing him of using Parliamentary privilege to make untrue allegations. He won the case along with damages reported to be

The 44-year-old MP has long been known for his support of Arab causes. As a Labour Party organiser in Dandee between 1977 and 1983, he twinned the city with the West Bank town of Nablus and flew the PLO flag over the city chambers.

More recently, he was roasted by Labour whips in 1994 after a trip to Iraq during which he was said to have told Saddam Hussein: "Allow me to salute your courage, power and indefatigability." The MP, who has criticised President Saddam on numerous occasions, said he was saluting not the dictator but "the Iraqi people who have suffered so much". The incident

which he won - his third in 10 years. Among many others, he has also

upset Denis Healey, who tried to have him removed from the Labour candidates' list in 1981 for writing a pro-Communist article, and Michael Foot. who rebuked him in 1982 for advocating the admission of Communists to the Labour Party. The Tory MP Barry Porter, who died in 1996, once tried to hit him.

Mr Galloway's private life has also been in the headlines on a few occasions. Just after he won his seat then named Glasgow Hillhead from Roy Jenkins in 1987, he told a press conference that he had sex with more than one woman during a conference in Greece two years earlier.

As general secretary of the War on Want charity he had "spent lots of time

was followed by a reselection battle. with people in Greece, many of whom were women, some of whom were known carnally to me", he said.

More recently, he told the Scottish Daily Record that he intended to marry for a second time, to a Palestinian biology student named Amineh, whom he described as "the voice of absolute calar in my life".

He also faced allegations that he had misused his position at War on Want by running up a bill of £21,000 in travel and entertainment expenses. He repaid £1,720 but was cleared by an independent auditor's report.

Even this week's trip has not won universal approval. Some fellow MPs and the Iraqi opposition have condemned it, saying there are thousands of other sick children who cannot expect such belp. It seems unlikely that Mr Galloway will be unduly worried.

IND01

New diet pill to embarrass slimmers into losing weight

A NEW TYPE of anti-obesity pill that compels those who take it to stick to a low-fat diet could be available in Britain lat- volved in trials of the drug, said:

sorption of fat in the gut so that it is excreted instead of ending having a personal minder who up on the hips and thighs, has slaps you on the hand as you. a huge potential market. It is reach for the cream cakes." currently wending its way through the labyrinthine hcensing procedures in Europe and the United States.

amount remaining in the gut results in diarrboea and the embarrassing condition of "anal leakage", providing a warning signal to the dieter. Xenical has heen compared to Antabuse,

which makes them vomit if they touch a drink. Dr Nick Finer, a specialist in

obesity at the Luton and Dunstable hospital who was in-"It is a very interesting ap-Xenical, which blocks ab proach to the problem and it seems to work. It is a bit like

The European committee that oversees drugs licensing has given Xenical a positive opinion, but formal approval is still . If too much fat is eaten, the some months away. In the US, the Food and Drugs Administration refused Xenical a licence after the drugs committee was split over worries about a possible link with breast cancer.

The drug, whose chemical

the drug given to alcoholics name is ordistat, works by block-risk-free. Aside from the possiing the enzymes in the gut that ble breast-cancer link, which fat eaten is blocked and excreted, equivalent to around 600 has other side effects. It reduces calories a day on an average diet.

> Traditional diet pills target the central nervous system and have an amphetamine-like action, increasing metabolism and suppressing appetite. In rare cases, this has caused heart problems which led to the withdrawai of one of the most widely used drugs, fenfluramine, last year.

Trials of Xenical on 7,000 patients in the US and Europe have. shown that 40 to 50 per cent achieved a 10 per cent weight loss maintained over one to two years. The average patient in the one-year trial lost 10 kilos (over a stone and a half).

However, the drug is not

digest fat. Up to a third of the the manufacturers, Roche, discount as a freak statistic, the drug absorption of vitamins E and D

and patients are likely to be advised to take supplements of these vitamins. Reduction in vitamin D levels is potentially the most serious because of the link with bone loss and osteoporosis. A spokeswoman for Roche

Don't get

said formal approval from the European Committee on Proprietary Medicinal Products was expected within three to four months. A Europe-wide licence would then be issued by the European Medicines Evaluation Agency. "We would expect the UK launch to be imminent once we get European approval," she said.

Druids return for solstice at Stonehenge

THE DRUIDS could make a return to Stonehenge for this year's summer solstice ceremony, it emerged yesterday.

The ancient order was banished from the site in 1988 after public disorder incidents sparked by a minority of travellers trying to revive a free festival. But the druids behaved im-

peccably after being let onto the ground for last year's autumn equinox and winter solstice and again at this spring's equinox. Wiltshire police and English

Heritage have suggested that about 100 people should be allowed to witness the sun rise over the stones on 21 June. At his Somerset home Rol-

lo Maughfling. Arch-Druid of Stonebenge and Glastonbury, said: "This will be a good step if it happens.

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ASA dismisses vacuum-cleaner claims as a lot of hot air

By Kate Watson-Smyth

DYSON, Britain's most popular vacuum-cleaner manufacfurer, bas been misleading costomers by claiming that it is beatthier and "more efficient" at dealing with bousehold dust. according to the Advertising Standards Authority.

The bagless, see-through Dyson is currently bought by six. out of ten people buying a new vacuum cleaner, hut, according to the ASA, many of the claims made for the revolutionary design fall short, in reality, of boasts in the company's adver-

The ASA upheld IZ out of 15 complaints about claims hut Dyson does not recognise made in three Deson commer- that standard because they say cials. These included slogans it is not the right sort of dust." about the vacuum cleaner being "much more efficient at removing dangerous dust particles", and it offering "relief, for asthmatics and allergy suf-

ferers" and "the cleanest-ever yesterday but the ASA rulings expelled air".

The ASA's rulings have highlighted fierce skirmishing in a high-street vacuum cleaner war.

Rival-manufacturer Miele research into the efficacity of the Dyson cleaner in the hope of knocking it from the top spot. It has launched a £250,000 advertising campaign on the back of its research and the ASA's rulings.

Michael Jeanes, chief executive of Miele, said: "Dyson is saying that bag cleaners are no good and that they lose suction and I cannot allow that to happen ... Most cleaners are tested to international standards

The ASA also noheld complaints from Which? magazine and Hoover about two other Dyson commercials.

Dyson refused to comment

are an unwelcome dent in the image of a British design success story. The bagless vacirum cleaner was unveiled as one of the items typifying Tony Blair's Cool has commissioned independent Britannia when it was put on display at the Department of Trade and Industry's powerhouse::uk exhibition, alongside the Psion

organiser, a pair of Manolo

Blahnik shoes and other paeans

to British design supremacy. However, a spokeswoman for the curator of the exhibition, Claire Catterell, said the show was meant to represent what is good about Britain now and was not about the best object of the past 10 years, or of a generation.

"The Dyson has become a cult object ... and it is a symbol of how people have accepted modern design," she said. "The question of how well it works was not one of the criteria for choosing the items that would go into the exhibition."

"Limited access is better than no access at all but I hope I see the day when we are free to go onto the site unrestricted."

insurers set to raise rates for flood-risk homes

HUNDREDS of thousands of homes in England and Wales which have been built over the [available] land. last 25 years in areas which are at an "appreciable risk" of flooding will face higher insurance premiums in the future.

While many of the homes in the Midlands that have been damaged by flooding over the last week may escape such rate hikes, insurers say that they are whole of the country for subsiconsidering "selective increases" in premiums for homes built in vulnerable areas.

Ron Baker, deputy director general of the the Association much of this reassessment has been prompted by research into rising sea levels and their impact on house-insurance premiums on the east coast of England.

The industry has already taken on board the implications of an estimated 20in rise in sea levels in the next 50 years on some parts of the east coast. Now it is shifting its attention to houses which have been built recently in areas known to be prone to flooding. Insurers say much of this development has been in unsuitable areas because of the lack of space in more secure areas. around 10 per cent in areas

spread areas which have been built up over the last 25 years because of the pressure on

Assurance, which has about 6 per cent of the United Kingdom the problem was "similar to subsidence", "Not too long ago, insurance companies would push up to £600m or £700m". charge a single rate over the dence," he said. Now, with the readisation that the clay on which homes are built in the south and south-east of England makes them particularly vulof British Insurers (ABI), says incrable to subsidence, insurers are charging "differential premiums against houses in the north of England," he said. Maybe something similar will

happen to flood premiums." Individual insurance companies forecast rising premiums because of a number of factors. not just flooding. A spokesman for General Accident, for incrance, which insures more than one million homes in the UK. said that subsidence was just as common a reason for increas-

Mr Baker points to "wide- prone to flooding," the GA spokesman said.

Jeff Kehoe is household manager for Royal & SunAlliance. which is the market leader and A spokesman for Guardian covers several million homes. The company is dealing with large numbers of claims related to nome-insurance market, said flood damage, and Mr Kehoe said the ABI estimates of total UK claims of £500m "could well

> Mr Kehoe said there were several reasons why household premiums are set to rise generally, not least an end to a vicious price war in the UK insurance market over the last two years. "There should be a general drift up in premiums starting in the the second half of 1998 and going on into 1999. If premiums had continued to fall they would have hit uncconomic levels." he said.

Mr Kehoe held out some hope for homeowners, however, pointing out that new homes were generally better risks than old ones. They usually have better foundations, which means they are less prone to subsidence. Also, he says, they tend to be more secure from burglars. because of better locks on doors There may be increases of and windows, "So its swings and roundabouts," he concluded.



Orient express: Children gobbling food from the conveyor belt at Yo! Sushi bar in Harvey Nichols store in Knightsbridge where special dishes for the Easter holidays include Japanese chicken fingers and jelly sushi Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

Dublin frees IRA men early

THE Irish Republic granted early releases to nine IRA prisoners last night in an attempt to boost the Northern Ireland peace accord struck in Belfast last week, writes Matthew

The men were freed from the high-security Portlaoise prison. The nine inmates - five from Londonderry and four from the Irish Republic - had been serving sentences for a range of arms and explosives offences. However, none was serving time for murder.

Eight had been due to be freed within the next 18 months but one was not due for release until 2005.

The releases were seen as an official attempt to aid the Sinn Fein leader, Gerry Adams, in his cepting the peace deal, and Australian nurse, in1996. they come days before this weekend's Sinn Fein annual

conference in Dublin. A key element of the peace military prisoners over the next

two years. The IRA has observed a the week. cease-fire since July 1997. The Irish government has frequentinmates, most recently just De-

hope for jailed nurses

Blair's Saudi visit raises

SPECULATION mounted yesterday that an announcement was imminent on the attempt to secure party backing | late of the two nurses jailed in Saudi Arafor his peace strategy after ac- | bia for the killing of Yvonne Gdford, an

By Anthony Bevins in London

and Eric Silver in Jerusiaem

With Tony Blair due to arrive in the kingdom this weekend during a whistlestop diplomatic tour of the Middle East. the Saudi lawyer for the two nurses - Debdeal is the release of all para- , orah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan-was reported as saving that ministers were due to decide on their sentence by the end of

The Independent was unable to contact the lawyer yesterday, but an intervention ly granted early parole to IRA by the Prime Minister on behalf of the two women would not he unusual. John comber, to encourage that truce. | Major made a direct plea to the King of Fewer than 40 IRA members re- Thailand on behalf of Patricia Cahill and main in custody in the Irish Re- Karyn Smith, who had been jailed in public, compared with more Bangkok after offbs of heroin were disthan 400 in Northern Ireland. | covered in their suitcases. They were freed as had been mooted in the planning stage. | press the issue.

on humanitarian grounds in July 1993.

Parry and McLauchlan have been held in Saudi prisons for the last 17 months, and although Downing Street would say nothing about the visit yesterday, an early release would be a clear honus for Mr Blair.

The diplomatic traffic that has been going on over the case is unlikely to be revealed in full. But the attention to detail is so great in such matters that there was even unconfirmed speculation that England's decision to play a friendly football match with the Saudi tcam, in preparation for the World Cup, was part of the game-plan to help get the two

women released. Meanwhile, it was learnt yesterday that an incipient diplomatic row over the timetable for Mr Blair's visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories had been averted. The Prime Minister will lay a wreath at the grave of the assassinated Israeli site in Jerusalem - is known to have leader, Yitzhak Rabin. But he will not, objected, and London, it seems, did not for two years, according to doctors.

stay overnight in Gaza after meeting the Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat.

A senior Israeli official said yesterday that Mr Blair would visit Rabin's grave accompanied by the late premier's widow, Leah. She had asked for her busband's successors as Labour leaders, Shimon Peres and Ehud Barak, to be present. The Israeli prime minister's office insisted that the finance minister, Ya'acov Ne'eman. should represent the present right-wing government alongside them.

Both British and Israeli diplomats said yesterday that there was no connection between the visit to Rabin's grave and Mr Blair's Gaza trip.

A British spokesman said the idea of staying over in Gaza had been abandoned at an early stage because it did not fit in with the rest of his programme. Israel still smarting from Rohin Cook's contentious tour of the Har Homa settlement

Soldier accused of Cyprus attack

MILITARY police are investigating an alleged assault on a British holidaymaker by a British soldier serving with the United Nations in

Cyprus. The tourist, Jeremy Caprio, 35, was blinded in one eye in an alleged attack outside a night club in Avia Napa early yesterday. He had surgery vesterday afternoon, and a doctor reported: "He has a severe injury of the right eye, he has a rupture of the globe of that eye. He has lost the vision of that eve."

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "We can confirm that an alleged assault by a British soldier serving with the UN force in Cyprus is being investigated... We have got very strict rules about conduct in Cyprus, and if warranted we will take stern action."..

Giant urn planned for Diana grave

A GIANT memorial urn is to be placed on the island where Diana. Princess of Wales is buried.

The 18ft-high urn elevated on a plinth, will be visible to visitors from the lakeside at Althorp, Diana's ancestral home, Earl Spencer disclosed.

The Princess's brother said he: wanted her grave "somewhere where I could take care of her Lord Spencer said William and Harry, the Princess's children. would be asked for final approval

of the Diana museum now taking shape on the Northamptonshire estate. He also said that he is editing old cine film of Diana growing up, to be screened in the museur

Trapped in Oblivion

DOZENS of people were last night trapped for almost an hour on Britain's most terrifying rollercoaster ride.

. The Oblivion ride at Alton Towers was opened in a blaze of publicity and features a climb upwards followed by a 200ft vertical drop. The ride broke down at its highest point and left up to 30 people perched at the top. Early indications are that there was a failure of the ride's computer system. The park put emergency procedures into place and used a harness to carry people to safety.

Airport food guide

A GUIDE to "name and shame" airport restaurants was launched yesterday by Egon Ronay. .The guide by the food guru cov-

ers seven airports, including Heathrow and Gatwick, to help, passengers pick out the best place for a pre-flight meal.

Mr Ronay said food standards d taken off at airports in recent years with some restaurants now offering meals to match the highest class establishments. But at the bot tom end, too many passengers were still being fed "dry and tasteless" burgers and watery coffee.

Anglesey inquiry

THE Wales Labour Party is to hold an inquiry into Anglesey County Council following a critical report from the district auditor, writes Tony Heath. The report named Labour councillor John Owen in allegations of impropriety in a property deal. He resigned after it emerged that he bad sold five properties to the authority to make way for a car park.

Surgery setback

Jade Harris, a six-year-old British girl born with just one car, will not after all be undergoing a pioneering operation in Boston to grow a new ear - something not possible



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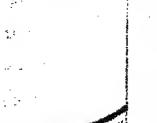
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Prescott sees green light

THE greening of John Prescott is an inspiring story, particularly because of its brevity. One of its leading characters is Fiona Reynolds, 40, head of the Council for the Protection of Rural England. Back in the pre-green dark days of December, our Deputy Prime Minister announced that West Sussex would have to build 50,700 houses by 2011. This meant, according to Reynolds, that the Government had "failed its first big test" on environmental issues. Her message must have hit its target for, by 24 February, Prescott decreed that 60 per cent of all new homes must be built on brownfield sites. And what influence this woman can wield, for just one month later she found Prescott's revised target for more new housing "a significant improvement". Thus Pandora was hardly surprised to learn yesterday that the new head of the woman's unit at the Department of Social Security will be, yes. Fiona Reynolds. She will work for Harriet Harman, secure that rural England is now fully protected.

Memories of Tories past

PASSING the Commons on Monday, Pandora was feeling nostalgic about all those familiar. Tory faces now. departed. What, for example, has happened to Phillip Oppenheim, that former Treasury junior minister who, upon being ejected from his sent, positively threw up his bands in glee? He told the Times, "I have loved being out" and hailed "the freedom to be and do what you want, to work with people of your choice". Pandora can't wait to read his promised political novel. Hopefully, it will reflect Phillip's explicit interest in exotic plants.

Mighty posting for Quinn



WHO will be the next US ambassador to Ireland? The incumbent, Jean Kennedy Smith (left), never gained the confidence of the British government (to put it mildly) and her presence in Duhlin would hardly enhance American influence with Unionists in the months ahead. According to reports in the US, she will return to private life in July. The favourite to replace her is a millionaire named Paul Quinn. As is the custom

with such appointments; Quinn has donated heavily to Clinton's Democratic Party. Most importantly, he is said to be the first choice of George Mitchell, the influential chairman of the peace talks.



Back to nature: Svetlana Bakhariyev and her husband, Dimitri, at the hume of Sheila Kitzinger Photograph: John Lawrence

Britain lures mothering Russians

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

MIDDLE-CLASS Russian to their shopping lists. With trappings of the Western way of life they are starting to deural) hirth.

> Svetlana Bakhariyev, 30, is believed to be the first Russian promise of aromatherapy, mis- woman. I want to have my who is trying to do what I am do- er Russia." she said.

sage and a water birth in England. Eight months pregnant, she arrived in Britain with her hushand, Dimitri, to have her women have added a new item . baby at the John Radeliffe Hospital, Oxford.

paying £2,500 for the privilege mand the Western way of (nat- of having a natural hirth. attended by midwives who will respect their wishes. Mrs Bakbariyev said: "In Russia the to exchange the bleak maternity criterion is how convenient it is

Moscow they give you drugs permanently through labour. I don't want to have my baby medicinally."

She heard about the John The couple, both lawyers, are Radeliffe through an independent male midwife in Moscow, where a consumer movement ginning. "I am sure there are a lot of other Russian women who

child without violence. In ing. If more of them knew about it, they would come too."

Sheila Kitzinger, the childhirth campaigner, who is assisting the couple while they are in England, said conditions in maternity wards in Russia and Eastern Europe were grim. Women were treated without demanding better treatment for care or concern for their digniwomen in childbirth is just be- ty and were not given adequate pain relief. "They are supposed to shut up and behave themwards of Moscow for the for the doctor, not for the want to do this. I have a friend selves and be brave for Moth-

Drugs tsar warns of cut-price heroin

RECORD amounts of heroin were seized by Customs last year, reflecting the increasingly widespread availability of the drug on Britain's streets, it was revealed yesterday.

A total of 1,747kg of heroin was seized in 1997, a tonne more than the previous year. Police estimate the haul has a street value of more than £145m and is the equivalent of 9 million "wraps". A wrap represents between one and four hits and is being sold on the streets for the same price as a pint of beer.

At a press conference yeserday at which the annual Customs & Excise figures were announced. Keith Hellawell, the Government's "drugs tsar", said heroin dealers were getting youngsters hooked by selling the drug at a loss and suggesting they smoke rather than inject it. Some young people take the view that it is "all right" to smoke drugs, but "stupid" to inject, he said.

"It becomes more attractive to the young user when the pusher says 'I'm not going to sell you stuff that gives you Aids; have this stuff to smoke, it gives you better hits and better highs than the other stuff [cannobis]"."

Mr Hellawell spoke of "an erosion of resistance towards softer drugs among the young. *Once you get a generation helieving that illegal substances and some legal substances - are attractive and that it doesn't matter, they naturally will go and try something else. Youngsters are discounting cannabis. Campaigns that are saying it ought to be legalised, that more people are doing it, mean they just discount it ... There's a sort of machoism - and whatever the

equivalent word for girls is -

where they say, 'I'm going to go for it. I'm not going to play with this stuff [cannabis]"."

Ahour 80 per cent of the heroin seized comes via the-Balkans. The heroin is produced from opium grown in Afghanistan and Pakistan and is then transported in cars. vans, coaches and lorries from Istanbul through Bulgaria, Romania, into Austria and Germany, through the Benelux countries, and into Britain.

Dick Kellaway, Customs' national investigation service chief, highlighted Customs officers' successes, including the discovery of more than 200kg of heroin under the carpets of two speedboats, and the detection of 450kg in a consignment of hathrohes. But he called for more co-operation between drug enforcement agencies across the world.

"The Turkish authorities have given us some assistance in tackling the problem, but more remains to he done ... [British] Customs takes pride in having made a significant contribution to tackling a global problem, a problem which can only be approached by countries working together. We earnestly hope that at a time when the UK has presidency of the European Union, there will he further improvements in judicial co-operation to allow even more effective joint effort."

In total, Customs seized more than 82 tonnes of drugs, with a street value of around £656m, and disrupted 134 major drug smuggling gangs.

The amount of cocaine seized totalled more than 2 tonnes, up from 1.157 kg the previous year; seizures of cannahis amounted to nearly 77 tonnes, slightly up on 1996. Leading article, page 18

Monday 20 April 1998

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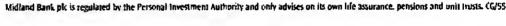
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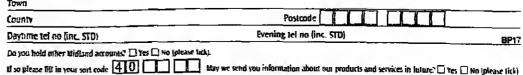
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Education conferences: Left triumphs over moderate NUT leadership as delegates back bid to be given days out of class for paperwork

Teachers vote for strikes in battle to win four-day week

By Judith Judd Education Editor

TEACHERS voted yesterday in and strikes in their campaign for a four-day teaching week.

In doing so, members of the National Union of Teachers delivered told them on Monday that all industrial action was unacceptable because it would damage the Government's standards agenda and threaten children's life chances.

Left-wingers at the union's annual their moderate leadership when planned for this autumn in pursuit of a new national contract for teachers. Under the contract, primary have one day a week for jobs such as marking, preparation and form-teachers." filling. New teachers would have two week. Secondary school teachers already have non-contact time.

that members will be in breach of

They will now ballot members on favour of a week of industrial action - the action, during which teachers may decide to work no more than 35 hours a week, refuse to teach oversized classes, refuse to cover for absent colleagues and insist on an a sharp snub to David Blunkett, the hour's lunch break every day. The Secretary of State for Education, who union says that no class should have more than 30 pupils.

The motion also calls for a campaign of action, including strikes, to secure the contract.

William Reese of Coventry, a member of the Socialist Teachers' Alconference in Blackpool defeated liance, said: "I don't think refusing to teach classes over actionable limthey backed the week of action its, refusing to cover for colleagues and ensuring teachers have a lunch break is industrial action.

"It is simply teachers saying they school teachers, who usually have no are going to show how the undertime out of the class-room, would funding of education is covered up by the commitment and work of

Bob Sulatycki, of Kensington days out of the classroom each and Chelsea in west London, said: "We should not have to tolerate poorer conditions of service in Eng-Union leaders who told delegates land and Wales than other col-

"Teachers in England and Wales their contracts if they carry out the are 22 times more tikely to go sick out of stress than their colleagues in

> Barrie Smith of the union's executive, told delegates to grow up and listen to other people. "Threatening strike action in this case is adopting a posture. All you do is to put your salary back into the school budget to buy another teacher. That is silly."

> Martin Reed, of the executive, accused supporters of the motion of indulging in the "politics of Alice in

> Doug McAvoy, the union's general secretary, said: "Parents won't understand action of this type. Children will be sent home.

The union's leaders now have to hold a ballot for the action week. It will require a 50 per cent turn-out of members and a two-thirds majority for the action to go ahead. Jerry Glazier, of the executive, questioned whether 90,000 members of the union would vote in favour of the

The week of action would involve a work to rule, but not a strike. If it failed to persuade the Government then a campaign of action, including strikes, would begin,



Hands up: NASUWT delegates voting at their conference in Scarborough on an amendment to reform Ofsted Photograph: Steve Forrest



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McAvoy tears a strip off his unruly class

A TEACHERS' union leader place in the conference of the being a teacher means. It does yesterday told delegates at the annual conference that their unnis union, writes Judith Judd.

crisis - and that included con- great profession." ference delegates.

Doug McAvoy, general sec- to example, they emulate those in Blackpool, but only by a retary of the National Union of they admire. Each of us through sound case based on research. Teachers, was speaking the day our self-respect, through the Delegates must be realistic after some delegates beckled dignity we display, through our about the strengths of the Gov-David Bhinkett, the Self-enry behaviour, through the mage enument, he said of State for Education, we project, send a message to Whatever we might think. Bad behaviour by leachers, children.

Mr McAvoy said, meant bad be The status we accord our whatever our perceptions of

Teachers were important. He warned delegates that ruly behaviour had no place in role models for children, he em- the Government would not be phasised. "Children respond shifted by the thumping of feet

haviour by children. Teachers selves, the determination we right or left, this is still the most had their part to play in im- show that the profession is to be popular government since the proving the profession's image - admired, gives a message to Second World War. and solving the recruitment those children: teaching is a ... The Prime Minister is an in-

He thanked Maureen Skev- have in ways we would not ac- who enjoys the confidence of ington, the union's president, for cept from our pupils, if we the vast majority of the British responding with tolerance, pa- treat others as we would not people and the admiration of tience and dignity to some be- wish to be treated ourselves; we governments and peoples in haviour which should have no are telling children this is what countries around the world."

ternational figure who has He went on to say. If we be made his name in history and

Lessons on stress demanded

Education Correspondent

By W E Henley

LESSONS in controlling stress should be a compulsory part of all teacher training, the secondlargest classroom union said yes-

control and relaxation should be part of all coaching for new and

existing staff, the NASUWT Cooper in 1991 found one in said. A study published earlier five teachers suffered anxiety Cooper, head of occupational psychology at the University of Manchester Institute of Technology, found teachers were the fifth most stressed profession after groups including prison of-ficers, police and social workers.

Another study by Professor

DAILY POEM

In Hospital: Lady Probationer

Some three, or five, or seven, and thirty years:

Are yet acquainted, it would seem, with lears;

Graced, ruther oddly, with a signet ring

4 bashful air, becoming everything;

A well-bred silence always at command.

Look out of place on her, and I remain

A comely shape; a slim, high-coloured hand;

Absorbed in her. as in a pleasant mysiery. Quick, skilful, quiet, soft in speech and touch ...

"Do you like nursing?" "Yes, Sir, very much." Somehow, I rather think she has a history.

Her plain print gown, prim cap, and bright steel chain

Our Daily Poems until Friday come from the expanded edition

of the Penguin Classics anthology Poetry of the 1890s (Penguin,

£8.99). edited by R.K.R. Thornton and Marion Tham. W.E. Hen-

ley was crippled from childhood as a result of tubercular arthri-

tis; the "In Hospital" sequence appeared in his Poems of 1898.

A Roman nose; a dimpling double-chin;

Dark eyes and shy that, ignorant of sin,

this year by Professor Cary and depression which he said would not be out of place in a psychiatric hospital out-patient

Teachers want action to reduce the number of staff leaving the profession with stress-related illnesses. Ill-health retirements among teachers are running at about 6,000 a year. up from just 2,000 in 1989. Union officials estimate up to half could be stress-related.

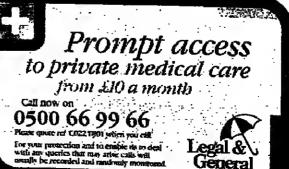
Teachers complain that long hours during term time, fear of school inspectors and pressure from head teachers is driving many to breaking point.

Delegates at the NASUWT conference in Scarborough painted a stark picture of the lives of some teachers they said

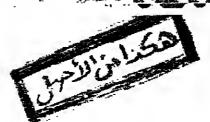
had been driven out by stress. The issue was one of the six top concerns of the union's

Philip Richardson, from Maidstone, Kent, said: "Stress is a killer. One of the main causes of stress is the macho nggressive style of headteachers who see it as a mark of their virility to get rid of weak teachers on trumped-up charges.

"My best friend killed himself on the first day of the school year by throwing himself on a railway line."







Experts accused of food-bug errors

By Jeremy Monblat

THE health team which dealt which led to dozens of people becoming seriously ill

the deaths of 20 people in the port, seen by the BBC, up to 24 1996 outbreak in Wishaw, central Scotland, starts in Motherwell on Monday. Professor means from the shop the next. Hugh Pennington of Aberdeen, day. Had the health team visit-University's microbiology de- ed the premises that night they partition, who led the govern- would have learnf what the ofment inquiry into the outbreak ficers sent to the shop discov-saids I think the inquiry will be cred the following merning clearly looking to see how many that there were a number of cases could have been prevented if different actions had ployed in the business with the been taken in the very early stages of the outbreak."

A programme on BBC2 tonight, Outbreak, claims that up to 24 people could have been consultant who later advised Mr prevented from contracting the. Barr, believes the decision to albug; and more than 100 people. low cooked meat products to go were put at risk by errors by the on sale in the bakery was a misauthorities charged with stem- - take. "We are looking at this in ming the food poisoning epi-hindsight and we don't want to demic. A total of 500 people be too harsh on the judgement, were affected.

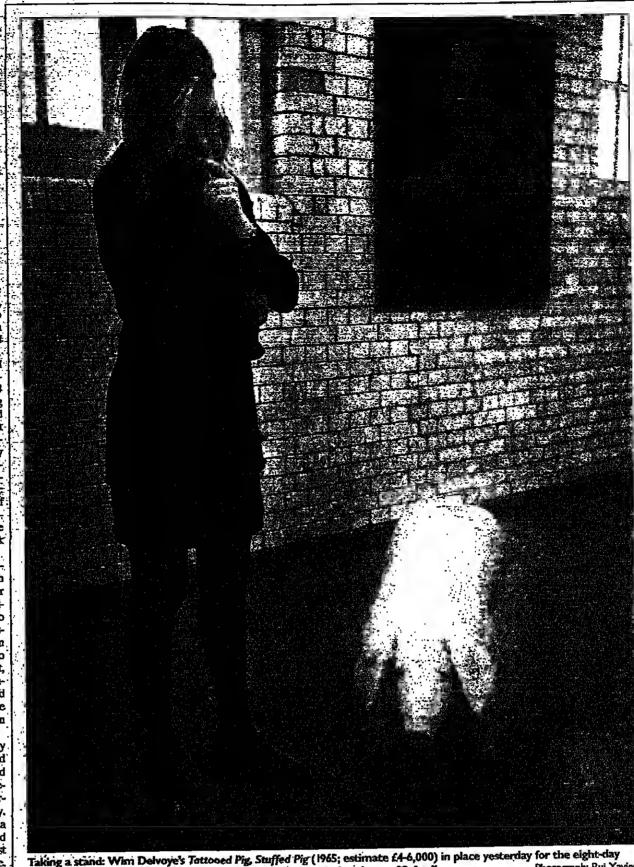
Saved Ahmed, a public health a lack of understanding of the consultant at Lanarkshire risks of cross-confamination in Health Board, and Graham the building she said. Bryceland, the head of protec. Four people who separately tive services at North Lanark- reported buying cold cooked' shire Council's environmental meats such as beef, tongue and health department. Faced with: a potential epidemic, Dr Alimed gorically, that they had purand Mr Bryceland acted quick- chased meats on that Saturday. ly in visiting John Barr, the Mr Barr told the BBC it was a centre of the outbreak, and done so, but the customers insist reached a voluntary agreement that their their is accurate.

pected of being the source of the iliness He asked, however, whether he could continue to with the world's worst E. coli sell cooked meat products from outbreak made a series of errors - the adjacent bakery shop, and was told "it would be OK".

According to a confidential A fatal accident inquiry into Lagarkshire Health Board repeople became ill after buying contaminated cold cooked potential for an increased risk of cross-contamination.

Dr Lisa Ackerly, an independent environmental health but I think it was a fundamen-The health team was led by tal mistake. It really showed

gammon could not prove catebutcher whose shop was at the "total impossibility" they had for him to stop selling the cold. The confidential report notes cooked meats which were sus- discrepances in these details.



Taking a stand: Wim Delvoye's Tottooed Pig, Stuffed Pig (1965; estimate £4-6,000) in place yesterday for the eight-day Photograph: Rui Xavier preview in London of Christie's contemporary art auction in London on 22 April

Near-misses highlight air safety fears

near-misses reported annually risk-bearing incidents in 1996 by air traffic controllers has doubled since the early 1990s, the latest figures show.

There were 26 incidents involving commercial aircraft in 1996 in which there was either a risk of collision or the safety of aircraft was under threat.

This compared with 16 such incidents in 1995 and 13 in 1992 and 1993, according to statistics from the Civil Aviation Authority.

The figures follow concerns expressed tast week by a Commons Select Committee about the workload of controllers affected by delays in the opening of a new control centre at Swanwick, near Southampton, Hampshire.

The near-misses are reported in an aircraft proximity report prepared by the independent Joint Airprox As- 1992.

THE NUMBER of serious sessment Panel. Five of the 26 were classified as category A meaning there was a real risk of a collision between aircraft. In 1995, there was only one category A incident. There were three in 1994, two in 1993 and four in 1992.

A further 21 incidents in 1996 came under category B which means that safety was "not assured". There were 15 category B incidents in 1995. eight in 1994, 11 in 1993 and nine in 1992.

Of the other near-misses reported by controllers in 1996, 36 were of the no-risk category C, while the actual risk was not determined in one incident.

The 63 commercial aircraft incidents in total in 1996 compared with 51 in 1995, 41 in 1994, 40 in 1993 and 55 in

Cool it, beer buffs tell nation's pubs

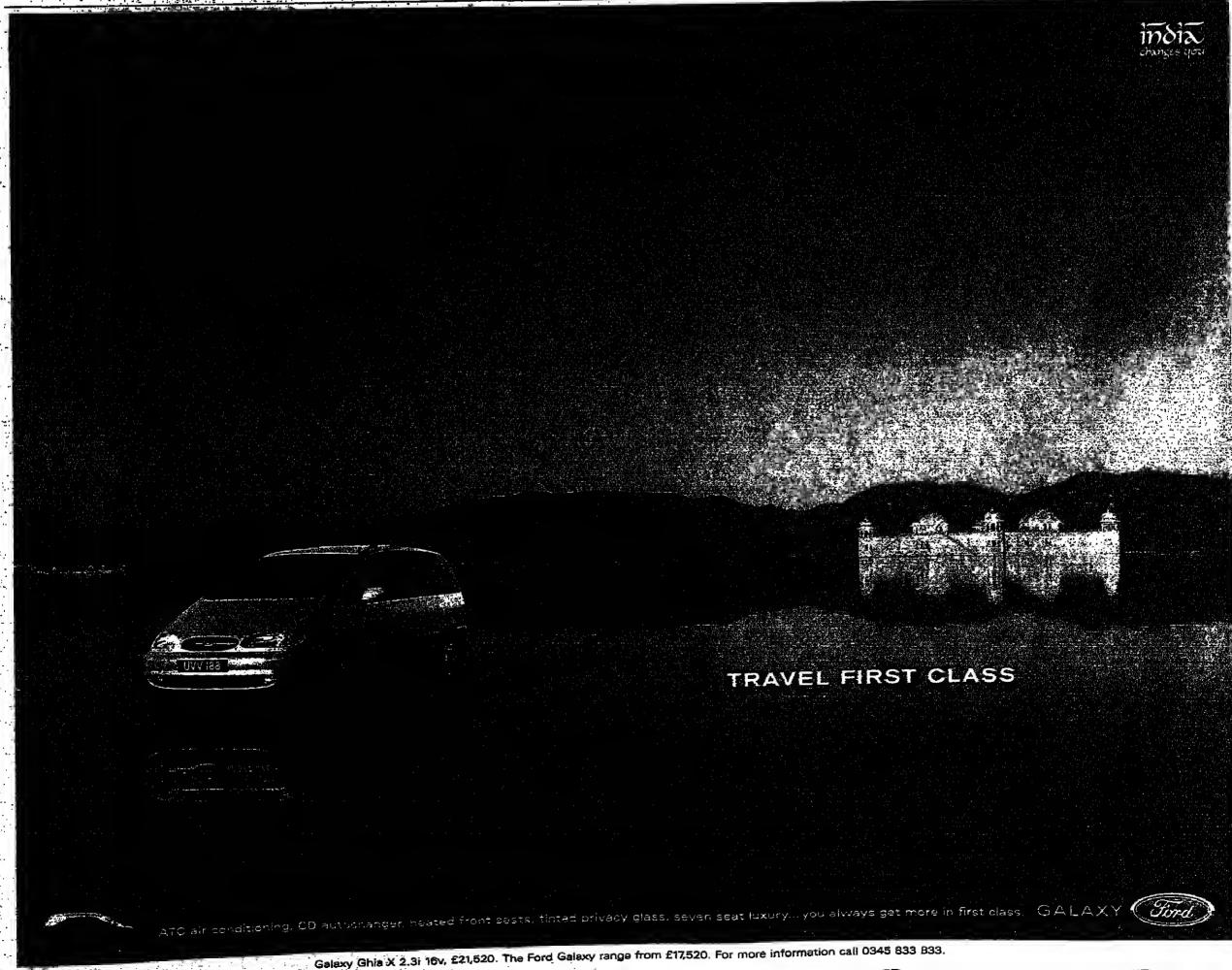
endorsement, it seems that warm beer is not the universal elixir the former prime minister believes it to be. At least, not as it is served in Britain's ale houses. Nearly half the pubs bidding for a fine ale award have failed to make the grade because their beers are too warm.

Although British beer is traditionally served tepid, undercover inspectors found that nearly four out of ten pints were being served at 15C or above well over the recommended maximum of 13.5C.

The findings have sent shivers down the spine of real aic buffs struggling to defend their tipple against the growing pop-

DESPITE John Major's ringing ularity of lager. Around 1,100 pubs across Britain were inspected by experts in a pilot study for Cask Marque, a new industry award scheme designed to push up the standards of ale keeping. Co-ordinator Paul Nunny said the findings were a warning to the industry to "get its act together".

"It's especially worrying at this time of year with the summer coming," he said. "People don't want warm drinks when it's hot. If they start drinking cold lager in June, July and August, they might not come back to bitter in September." The solution could lie in developing new storage systems and better staff training, he added.



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Hidden menace of nerve-gas poisons in sheep dip

By Charles Arthur Science Editor

JEREMY MAYNARD first noticed the symptoms towards the end of 1989. He began suffering severe muscle cramps. and lost strength all over his body. Sleep became elusive. and food became unpalatable. until he found himself only able to bear the taste of water and oats. "Like being a horse."

It seemed strange; All his life he had been fit and healthy, now at the age of 50 his body seemed to be giving up.

He took time off from his work as a farm manager to visit his GP, who diagnosed ME. or chronic fatigue syndrome a fashionable diagnosis at the time. "In those days it was a vague diagnosis anyway, so who was to say it was wrong? I tried

ternative therapies. None helped."

Then in 1995 he was given blood tests from which a quite different diagnosis was made: organophosphate (OP) poi-

ture, Fisheries and Food has had a total of 1,254 cases of human OP poisoning reported to its Suspected Adverse Reaction Surveillance Scheme (Sarss), a voluntary reporting scheme for monitoring reactions of humans and animals to all sorts of veterinary medicioal products. Of that total, 602 are suspected to have been caused by sheep dip; but a Maff spokeswoman says; "nothing has been confirmed.

sense to Mr Maynard, who in tating to humans.

He is far from alone. Since 1985 the Ministry of Agricul-

on a farm in Devon right beside the sheep dip. The materials used to dip sheep? By government order, farmers had to use insecticides made from organophosphates - even though there are chemicals Suddenly it started to make available which are less devas-

1984 had set up his worksbop

For OPs are not harmless chemicals. Many were first made in Nazi Germany, as part of a search for phosphorusbased nerve gases. They are related to nerve gases like Sarin: they attack the same enzyme, called cholinesterase, which is vital to nerve function.

with a five-gallon drum of the Yet the farmers who used to stuff." Inevitably, he inhaled the

dip sheep in OPs were rarely. aware of the dangers involved. "We were told that it was quite safe, that you didn't need to wear protection," recalls Mr Maynard, who used to help put the sheep through. "There would be a pair of rubber gloves

splashed on his skin: "when you dipped in the summer, you would often strip clothes off. You wouldn't wear the spacesuits that they recommend you

By 1992, he was unable to work. "You just have to make do," he says, when asked how

he makes ends meet. In 1994 he began hospital treatment for his condition, which entailed staying in for weeks oo end. His marriage broke no.

OPs out of the fat in the body committing suicide - I know." cells, where they linger and The OP Information Network cause problems with the pe- is on 01579 384492

Maynard was diagnosed as having ME, but later he was told that nrganophosphates were to blame for his debilitating

Photograph: Tim Cuff

ripheral nerves - as well as weekly infusions which can take up to eight hours.

Yet Mr Maynard is far from alooc. He is one of hundreds of farmers and former farm workers who have contacted the OP Information Network, an informal support group set up in 1991 by Elizabeth Sigmund. She started it on learning of the close connection between the effects of OPs used by farmers. and nerve gases.

Ms Sigmund points out that the statistics from Maff's Sarss masks the real problem.

"The parameters that people have to meet to qualify are impossible if you really have bad OP poisoning. For example, filling out lots of forms. People with OP poisoning find it hard to conceotrate on doing that at all. Then the panel wants a doctor to back up the diagnosis. But most doctors don't know what it looks like.

For Jeremy Maynard, there is no doubt. "It's a horrible, horrible nightmare of a disease ... Now he has daily injections . if you ever wondered why there and saunas - to try to force the have been so many farmers





France will welcome fans without tickets

By Andrew Buncombe

FOOTBALL fans without tickets for World Cup matches will still be welcome in France this summer, the country's tourism

minister said yesterday.

Michelle Demessine said even though fans might not be able to get into the games they could still enjoy the unique at-mosphere and watch the matches on large video screens.

erected in different towns. "I know there is a campaign asking supporters not to go Demessine: Go and enjoy and I would not like to contrawould like to say that people can yesterday by the French, who come without having to go to the matches. There will be the atmosphere of the World Cup.

pity not to enjoy all that. Out-France is celebrating and we passed the turnstiles. want as many people as possihle to take part in that."

contradict the advice being is- have a name and address with without tickets not to bother crossing the Channel as any tickets bought from touts on the . black market would not be

That too was contradicted

the atmosphere

ticket sold would have a parside the football stadiums show identification as they

Fabien Roussel, press officer for the French tourist office. Her comments appear to said: "All tickets sold do not sued to fans by the British gev- them. There will not be a check ont a ticket not to travel." ernment. It has told supporters of the identity of the person who presents them necessarily."

sale to anyone living within the the World Cup. European Community. Mr

Roussel also confirmed plans for giant television screens to relay matches to ticketless supporters in towns across France. He was unable to give specific details of where they were sited or security arrangements that would accompany them.

· Ms Demessine also unveiled a plan to ensure hotels would not take advantage of the World Cup and hike their prices. Under the Prix Bleus scheme, 10,000 hotels, gites and campsites have agreed not to raise

their prices. Yesterday, a spokeswoman for the British Department for Culture, Media and Sport, said said that contrary to what was advice to supporters remained being said in Britain, not every the same. "We are warning fans that if they cross the Chan-"People can come and enjoy: ticular person's name and ad-nel on the hope of getting a tickthe atmosphere. It would be a dress printed on it and that fans et they will be disappointed. We would not necessarily have to. are saying that people will be able to watch the matches on television or in the pub and they

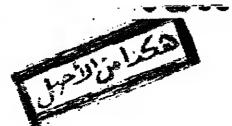
can enjoy the spectacle here. A spokesman for the Football Association said: "We would still advise people with-

Last month the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, launched a He also held out the £1m advertising campaign prospect of a further 110,000 warning supporters who do not tickets being made available for have tickets to stay away from

Scots allocation, page 27

3





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Prostitute killer claims 6th victim

By Anne Hanley in Rome

POLICE in north-western Italy stepped up their search for a serial killer yesterday after an Albanian prostitute was found dead with a bullet wound in the back of her head. Kristina Valla, 21, was the sixth prostitute killed in the region of Liguria

Iovestigators will seek to establish whether Ms Valla was shot with the same weapon used between March 9 and 29 to kill three other foreign prostitutes. Two Italian prostitutes were murdered in Liguria oo 1 January and 3 February, though not with the same weapoo.

Another Albanian woman was shot dead in the regioo in February 1997.

"We are at a very theoretical stage in investigations," said the local police chief. Rodolfo Venezia "Valla could have" been the victim of a serial killer. or of a hattle between rival clans fighting for control of singly by boyfriends who rapidprostitotion in the regioo."

But the similarities between fout of this year's killings and

oo the loose, Ms Valla was fouod early yesterday in a field near a deserted house outside the village of Pietra Ligure with one shot in the back of the head and mud on her knees, suggesting she had been forced to kneel down before being

The same method was adopted to the murder of a Ukrainian, Slyudmyla Zuskova. 23, oo 9 March.

Stela Truya, a 25-year-old Albanian, and a Nigerian, Evelin Edsohe, 27, were also shot in the back of the head. All the murdered womeo

were found within a short distaoce of the main highway which runs the length of this mountainous coastal regioo, a road which plays host to a growing percentage of the es-timated 30,000 Eastern European and African women selling their bodies in Italy. Albanians account for around ooe third of these.

Smuggled in in groups, or ly turn pimp once over the border, most of the womeo who eod up oo Italy's streets are the murder committed last year lured into the country with the point strongly to a serial killer promise of waitressing work.

According to research carried out for the European Commission, some 500,000 women enter the EU each year and end up on its streets, many of them passing first through Cyprus. theo ioto Italy, where they are introduced to their oew trade in Rome and Milan before being distributed around this country and beyond.

Rome alone is believed to be home to 3,000 of these prosti-

Mr Venezia said that in his. region, at least, everything was being done to safeguard the lives of the women forced into the trade. Prostitution, however, is not illegal to Italy.

"We can't stop individual prostitutes from getting into cars and being driveo away," he

"All we can do is investigate



Holy waters: Hindus bathing from the crowded banks of the River Ganges at Hardwar, in India, yesterday, which was the last major day of bathing during the 15-week Kumbh Mela festival

Mafia kingpin held in Sicily

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VITO VITALE, described by an investigator as "the most dangerous mafioso still at past mooths, investigators said. large", was arrested yesterday when police ambushed him outside Palermo. The arrest of Vitale, believed to top the new generatioo of Sicilian Mafia bosses, comes after arrests of ... Bernardo Provenzano, who has top Mob figures, including the -not been sighted for 30 years Boss of Bosses, Salvatore Rima, and who achieved legendary stawho was shopped by super tus as Cosa Nostra's ultimate grasses and put behind bars in . leader. January 1993. Vitale tried to flee when po-

mafioso still at large, has been was hiding. arrested," said the magistrate in charge of the investigations, Alfonso Sabella.

caught." Vitale, 39, emerged as ... The boss had been high on of the old generation of Mafia chiefs crippled Cosa Nostra's ... He was spotted by investiutation for bloodthirsty ruth- occasion.

lessness and a steady hand with a gun, Vitale shot his way to the top in the internecine strife which has rent Cosa Nostra over

Wanted for killings and providing the acid bath in which the body of a supergrass's 13-yearold soo was dissolved, Vitale is believed to answer directly to

"The head of the Corleone lice moved to arrest him in the clan, the most dangerous half-finished house where he

Also arrested were the own er of the house. Pietro Fioretto Valenza, and another man "Rima's sole heir has been who was not named, --

a Mob linchpin after the arrests the Sicilian police's most-wanted list since 1995.

"cupola" command structure. A gators last September, but manprotege of Riina's, with a rep-. aged to elude arrest oo that

Lesbians harassed on Bahamas cruise

By David Usborne

in New York ---

LESBLANS disembarking from: Nassau, the capital of the Bahamas, oo Monday. Waving placards reading "No

gay strips" and chanting "We got enough sissies in the Bahamas", about 300 people were gathered on the wharf to protest at the arrival of the SS Seabreeze I.

Only a handful of the 800 mostly American passengers disembarked from the Seabrecze. ... They were quickly boarded on to a smaller ferry and takeo to

a nearby private island for the day. No one was hurt. Controversy over gay-ooly

cruise ships travelling the a cruise liner were harassed and Caribbeao first erupted in Janbarracked wheo they arrived in uary when the government of the Cayman Islands, a British Dependent Territory, turned away a Norwegian Cruise Lines ship bearing 900 gay men. Britain bas since asked the territories with anti-sodomy laws to repeal them.

Anxious to avoid publicity that could harm the tourist industry, the Bahamian government later welcomed the Seabreeze.

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Ten runners-up will each receive travel bag and vanity case luggage sets. So don't lounge around. Take off for your Renault Dealer now, and arrange to test drive the Megane. Prices start at just £9,995, the great Renault Freeways offers" are still available - and who knows what may turn up out of the blue?

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Is Latin America heading for a new era of dictatorship and repression?

Clinton has hailed a 'quiet democratic

revolution', but the generals are back. Is the US ignoring the threat to human rights in a bid to boost trade? Phil Davison reports

the Americas in Miami in 1994, US President Bill Clinton bailed a "quiet revolution" of democracy across 1996. Latin America. But when he arrives second, follow-up summit, he will find that democratic progress is stuttering, "Democracy in distress in Latin region," said a front page headline this week in the Miami Herregion most closely.

The main concerns." First, the a prison yard. fact that former military strongmen have returned to the political scene in several countries. Second, the democratically-elected leaders of other countries are showing dieta- president last year. tor-like reluctance to leave the stage when their terms are up,

Some South American intellectuals say Mr Clinton bas turned a appearances and torture - because blind eye to simmering threats to democracy in deference to economic. Now, they are not so sure. The counstability and because of pressure. Try has been rocked by violence asfrom the US arms industry. Last year, he resumed the sale of advanced weapons to the region. 20 years earlier.

The 34 heads of state at the Chile summit, on Saturday and Sunday, American free-trade zone by 2005. an "alliance against drugs" to replace the controversial anti-narcotics by the US, and the setting up of a manding a political trial for his past. "high commissioner" to promote greater freedom of the press, But the warning signs for democracy may cast a shadow on the proceedings.

A look around South America tells the story:

In Paraguay, the leading candidate in next month's presidential elections is retired general Lino Oviedo. His candidacy is complicated by the fact that he is in fail.

ADDRESSING the first Summit of supposedly for the next 10 years, for launching a failed coup against President Juan Carlos Wasmosy in

The constitutional issue has left in Sanuago. Chile, tomorrow for the the country on the brink of crisis, waiting for the Supreme Court to decide, possibly today, whether the general may continue his campaign and, if so, what happens if he is elected on 10 May as the polls predict. ald, the US daily which follows the Paraguayans joke of world heads of state attending his inauguration in

> In Bolivia, the region's poorest nation, General Hugo Banzer. 72, who ruled by force and by fear for most of the Seventies, was elected

> Bolivians apparently forgave him the countless human rights abuses of his regime - deaths, dishe promised jobs and security. sociated with widespread strikes for more than a week.

In Chile, longtime dictator Genbanned by President Jimmy Carter eral Augusto Pinochet last montb retired as army chief but 100k his sear as "senator-for-life". Some Chileans saw his move as an acwill discuss efforts to reach a pan- ceptable quid-pro-quo for handing the country back to democracy in 1991 but some politicians and buman rights groups want to oust him arrangements currently advocated from the upper house and are de-

> In Venezuela, retired Li Col Hugo Chavez, who has attempted several coups d'état in the past, is leading the polls for December's presidential election. He has said he would abolish Congress.

> In Colombia, retired General Harold Beoya is campaigning for next month's presidential elections on a platform that would give military officers considerable control of the judiciary, accusing civil judges

of corruption. He is currently in the top four of a dozen candidates.

Colombia's President Ernesto Samper cannot run again but the country is largely in the hands of the generals because left-wing guerrilla groups roam over almost half the nation, kidnapping soldiers and civilians and blowing up oil pipelines. The military's successes in capturing cocaine cartel chiefs have also boosted its support.

In Mexico, democracy has been widely perceived as blossoming over the past few years because the left- and right-wing opposition are Army.

making gradual inroads against the long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), But many believe the military is flexing its muscles for fear that the PRL with which the armed forces have had the cosiest of relations for seven decades, could lose the presidency

for the first time in 2000. The army has taken charge of the Mexico City Police to fight crime and is occupying much of the southeastern state of Chiapas after a 1994 uprising by Indian peasants led by the Zapatista National Liberation

But it is the clinging to power by several South American leaders that is most wortying Latin America intellectuals, who now speak of "constitutional coups"...;

In Argentina opposition politicians are up in arms over President Carlos Menem's recent suggestion that be might run again for a third That would be unconstitutional. But then so was a second-straight term until Mr Menem pushed through a change in the constitution to allow him to run and win in 1994. Mr Menem said recently that he was they remained in power.

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"the best guarantee of continuity". In Peru, President Alberto Fu-

jimori hopes to run for a third fiveyear term in 2000. That, too, was unconstitutional until the Supreme Court, beavily-loaded with pro-Fujimori judges, ruled that he could do so. Mr Fujimori was first elected in 1990. Re-election thereafter would have been illegal but he. pulled it off in 1995 after dissolving Congress and calling new elections with new rules.

Mr Fujimori, who also engineered a legal manoeuvre to keep his divorced wife from running in 1995, apparently believes Peruvians will support his constitutional tinkerings because of his successful raid to free the Japanese embassy hostages a year ago.

The sweet smell of continuing power has also reached President Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil, once a left-wing intellectual but now a forceful free market advocate, who has also pushed through legal changes to lift a ban on a second straight term in elections later this year. He claims the country oeeds him for another six vears to consolidate his nnquestioned economic successes.

In Panama, President Ernesto Perez Balladares said last week that he, too, was seeking a constitutional amendment to allow him to run again next year for another fiveyear term. His critics are already accusing him of launching a "civilian dictatorship".

Perez Balladares was General Manuel Noriega's campaign manager in the 1989 elections, later declared fraudulent, After Noriega was captured in a US military intervention, Perez Balladares laid low but later emerged and was elected

Now, Latin American intellectnals, buman rights groups and others believe the spreading reloctance to give up power threatens a. straight five-year term next year. return to the era of Latin America's "democratic caesars" who ran their nations at the turn of the century, usually backed by the US, beholden to hig business and adamant that their citizens were better off if

Albright ... tries to halt Paraguayan's execution

By John Carlin in Washington

THE United States Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, embarrassed by her own country's cavalier attitude towards the death penalty. has personally intervened to obtain a stay of execution for a man who was scheduled to be put to death by lethal injection late last night.

Angel Francisco Breard, convicted of murder by a court in Virginia in 1992, is a Paragunyan citizen. Ms Albright argued in a letter to the governor of Virginia that to go ahead with the execution would be a violation of the Vienna Convention, establishing a precedent that could jeopardise the safety of Americans detained abroad.

The violation consists of the Virginia authorities failure to inform Breard after his arrest of his right to seek the assistance of officials at the Paraguayan consulate in Washington. The International Court of Justice examined the case last week and formally requested on Friday that the US "take all measures at its disposal" to stop Virginia from executing the Paraguayan".

Ms Albright responded to the call but immediately found herself in conflict with ber own government. The Justice Department has made a recommendation to the US Supreme Court, which was considering yesterday an appeal lodged by Breard's lawyers, that the execution be allowed to proceed as planned. Should the Supreme Court accept the Justice Department's recommendation. Jim Gilmore, the governor of Virginia, will have the last word.

In her letter to Governor Gilmore, Ms Albright said she was asking for a stay of Breard's execution because of "possible negative consequences" for American citizens abroad.

The execution of Mr Breard. could lead some countries to contend incorrectly that the US does not take seriously its obligations under the (Vienna) Convention," she wrote.

Breard's lawyers maintain that had their client consulted in time with Paraguayan consular officials they might have saved his life by persuading him to accept a plea agreement offered before his trial.

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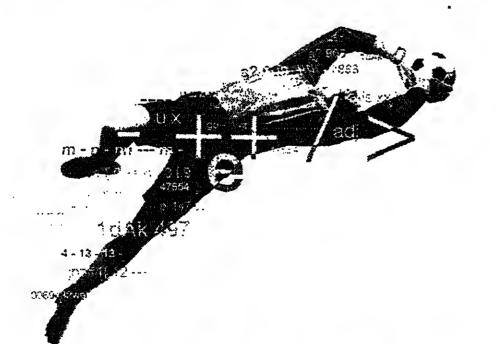
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Albright tries to h Black baby Paraguaya shot by execution farmer for 'trespass'

By Mary Braid in Johannesburg

IT reads like an apartheid-era atrocity. On Saturday a white South African farmer allegedly fired on three black children walking though his fields, killing a baby and wounding the cousin who was carrying her.

Police did not take the suspect, Nicholas Steyn, into custody until yesterday, when he was charged with the murder of . six-month-old Angelina Zwane. whose mother lives and works on the farm, and the attempted murder of Francina Dlamini. 11. A third child escaped uniniured.

For many, the case highlights the state of race relations on South African farms. It follows other cases where white farmers have allegedly shot and killed innocent blacks, including employees, claiming they mistook them for intruders. There are also reports of assaults on employees in backwaters where the baas's word . was law and still seems to be.

A relatively new phenomenon - the murder of white farmers - adds to a violent picture. Since the 1994 election. farmers' unions say hundreds of their members have been killed and that farmers are being targeted for political reasons.

As people gathered yesterday outside a court in Benoni, ocar Johannesburg, to heckle Mr Steyn, President Nelsoo Mandela was visiting Angelina's mother, Violet Dlamini, in her shack. She had already beeovisited hy Winnie Madikizela-Maodela, the President's ex-wife and consummate populist, who also appeared at the hearing. She said nothing but: left-wing and Africanist parties lined up to insist Angelina's killing was the tip of the leeberg.

"It is just one example of the way black people are being treated every day on farms by white people," said the Azanian People's Organisation.

After a private meeting with Ms Diamini, Mr Mandela said: "This is a terrible disaster for the parents and for those trying to ensure we have a united nation with peace." He promised justice, while ANC politicians and police officials criticised the force for failing to

arrest Mr Steyn immediately. Yesterday the South African Agricultural Union responded to Mr Mandela's appeal that it condemn the killing. But comments from the political right - like those from the left farmed the flames.

Pieter Aucamp, spokesman for the Conservative Party, said Mr Mandela was "racially hiased. He is as silent as a grave when one white after the other is being murdered on South African farms." Farmers have complained

that the government failed, at least in the beginning, to take seriously the attacks on them. Some would argue that, with the many murders of farmers, it is not surprising they feel persecuted and that some have become trigger-happy.

For black parties, the shootings take their root in the longestablished brutality inflicted by white farmers on their workers. such as the alleged assault and torture of a labourer who last week said a farmer and his soo beat him and dragged behind a tractor for dropping cottoo he was harvesting. .

Earlier this mooth, at special poverty hearings, Barney Pityana, chairman of the Human Rights Commission, said testimooy of the rural poor provided "homifying tales about how farmers treat workers."



Barbed comment: Demonstrators outside the court in George in yesterday. Mr Botha has refused to appear before the body investigating crimes of the apartheid era, and has described it as a 'circus': Photograph: Reuters

Trial of defiant Botha still in the balance

By Mary Braid

THE TRIAL of PW Botha. South Africa's ageing apartheid-era president, for defying an order to appear hefore the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, was delayed again yesterday in an effort to avert a court battle which could both damage the commission and Mr Botha and increase racial divisions.

Though reports that a deal had been reached circulated all day, no agreement had been struck last night. The Western Cape Attorney-General, Frank Kahn, ordered that the criminal case, in which Mr Botha, 82, faces a 20,000 rand (£2,400) fine or up to two years in jail proceed if a deal were not struck by this morning. Yesterday Archbishop Desmond Tutu. chairman of the commission. which is charged with exposing atrocities of the apartheid era. said it was never the TRC's intention to humiliate Mr Botha or "rub his nose in the dust".

It bent over backwards to accommodate Mr Botha's objections to appearing before it to answer questions about his leadership of the State Security Council, responsible for some of the worst violence against blacks. In the past Mr Botha dismissed the TRC as a "circus" and made clear he had no intention of appearing before it. The TRC has offered to hear his testimony in camera.

Though Mr Botha has said its pursuit of him might cause a resurgence of Afrikaner nationalism, there was no sign of political support for him yesterday. Supporters of the ruling ANC demonstrated outside the court in George, on the southeast coast, but a threatened stration did not materialise.

Many blacks feel that too many concessions have been made for Mr Botha, while Afrikaans newspapers have accused the commission of conducting a witchhunt against



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Korea talks founder

THE FIRST direct talks to take place in four years between North and South Korea appeared to have foundered yesterday; over the question of reunions for families separated by the Korean war.

Both sides remained in Peking, but each blamed the other for the failure in progress. "North Korea said the family issue is a political issue while the fertiliser issue was a humanitarian issue," said Jeong Se Hyun, of the South. "But we believe the reunion of families is a humanitarian issue of the first order." Since the election of Kim Dae Jung as president of South Korea, there has been an improvement in relations between the two sides. But Mr Kim has promised to promote family reunions , while Pyongyang refuses to consider the issue until they had receive 500,000 tons of fertiliser.

King Ludwig mystery

AN AUTHOR who contends "mad" King Ludwig II of Bayaria was murdered and did not commit suicide in 1886 said yesterday one of Germany's most coduring mysteries could be solved. Ludwig was arrested and declared insane and unfit to role. His body was dredged up from Stamberg Lake three days later. Peter Glowasz, who thinks Ludwig was shot, says the cause of death could be established by exhuming his remains in Munich's St Michael's Church. - Reuters, Bonn

Havel in emergency surgery

PRESIDENT Vaciav-Havel, 61, was rushed to hospital for emergency surgery yesterday for a "very serious" stomach condition. It was his fourth hospitalisation since December 1996 when he had surgery for lung cancer.

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Hebron offers grim model for co-existence

Patrick Cockburn in the West Bank reports on ritual violence within an intricate mosaic of sectarian geography

A MONTH ago Jewish settlers in Hebron celebrated a religious festival by dressing up a child as Dr Baruch Goldstein, the settler who walked into the all-brahimi mosque in the city in 1994 and shot dead 29 Palestinian worshippers. As part of the fun the child wore a stethoscope round his neck and carried a toy gun.

In Nablus, the largest autonomous Palestinan city on the West Bank, the high point of a rully of Hamas, the Islamic militant organisation, last week was setting fire to a large modcl of an Israeli bus. The message was that Hamas should repeat its bombings of 1996, targetedprimarily against buses, which killed some 60 Israelis,

Nobody doubts that the 1.5 million Palestinians and 140,000 Jewish settlers on the West Bank hate each other. But the failure of Israel to complete the withdrawal from the West Bank, which started in 1095 as part of an interim phase of the Oslo aecords, means that the West Bank remains a mosaic of competing authorities.

If Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, gets his way, the West Bank will be permanently divided into an intricate pattern of Israeli and Palestinian islands, which will make the sectorian geography of Beltast or Beirut look simple.

Nowhere is the friction as great as in Hebron, the effective capital of the southern West Bank. Here, since last year, between four and six Israeli infantry companies guard 40 tamilies of Jewish settlers, occupying a fifth of the city, inhabited by 20,000 Palestinians. The dividing line between the two is the scene of continual.

A MONTH ago Jewish settlers in Hebron celebrated a religious festival by dressing up a child as Dr Baruch Goldstein, the settler who walked into the al-

treett sordiers.

It could all get a great deal worse. In his headquarters overlooking Hebron, Colonel Yigal Sharon, the commander of the Israeli brigade in the Hebron region, says confidently: "Even in



Netanyahu: Set on complex division of the West Bank

the case of massive disorder the IDF [Israeli Defence Force] has an answer to practically everything." Asked if the present division of powers is unstable, he stresses that the present agreement is an interim one.

So far at least violence has been limited this year. Three Palestinians were killed at a road block by Israeli soldiers. Another Palestinian boy was

killed by a rubber bullet.

Colonel Sharon insists that his men do not fire rubber bullets above chest level or from close range, but admits: "It's not an accurate weapon," He adds that only if he guarantees Palestinian security, can he protect the Jews in the city.

It looks an impossible job. During the Passover holiday and to celebrate Israeli independence day some 10,000 Israelis a day were visiting the Cave of the Patriarchs, where Abraham lies buried. But Israeli police were only allowing them to enter the city on buses. Colonel Sharon said they could easily cross into the Palestinian zone

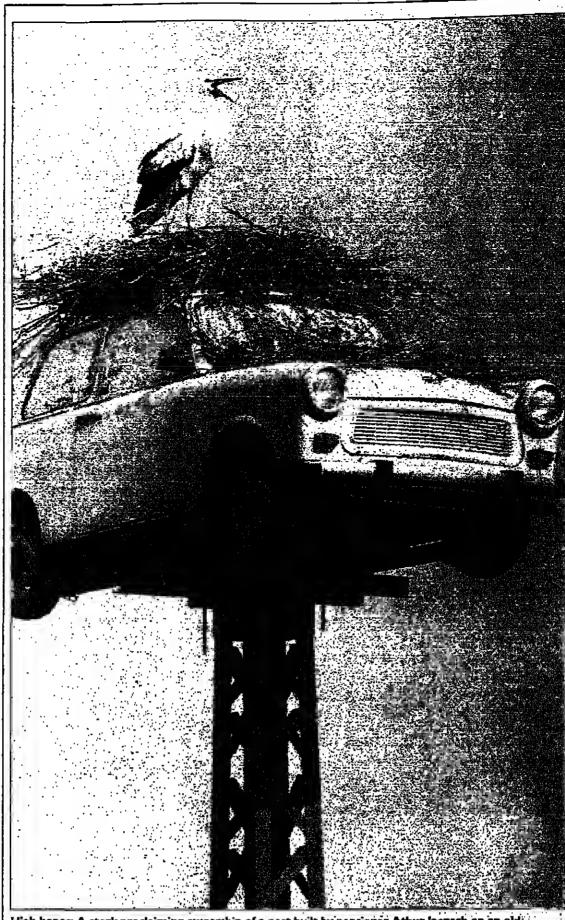
hy accident.

The problem is that the settlers of Hebron are the cutting edge of the settler movement who believe that Hebron was given by God 10 them. Out of 304 legal cases opened against settlers in the West Bank in 1997, 70 per cent were against the small number of Jews in Hebron.

The settlers have also been extraordinarily successful in capsizing the Oslo accords. As a student. Yigal Amir, the assassin of Yitzhak Rabin, then the Israeli prime minister, organised trips of supporters to the heart of Hebron. They remain a focus for the Israeli right and their influence has grown. Earlier this year they were able to get Yaakov Ish-Yemeni, the commander of the local police station, removed because he criticised the settlers' tactics.

The recipe under which Israel withdrew from part of Hebron last year guaranteed continual friction, It was agreed only after prolonged negotiations and US mediation.

US and Israeli plans for the future of the rest of the West Bank envisage only a very limited Israeli withdrawal. Both sides will hold power in a very small area. Instead of an example to he avoided, Hebron will become the model for future relations between Israelis and Palestinians.



High hopes: A stork proclaiming ownership of a nest built by pensioner Athur Jaensch on an old:

Trabant car built in the former East Germany, balanced on a 10m-high steel pole in Neuruppin, north of Berlin

Photograph: Jan Bauer/AP

Coiffeurs cut costs by move to UK

By Adam LeBo

LE "cross Channel business" est arrivée. It's the latest stage in the web of links binding the British and French economy together; open a husiness in France, but legally register it in Britain to escape the high payment demands of the French Social Security System, that Gallic shopkeepers say are destroying their profits.

Dozens of small businesses such as hairdressers and bakers, the lifeblood of any French high street, are finding that legally setting up shop in towns such as Ashford, Kent, is a lot easier on their cash flow than registering in Avignon, even though they have no intention of operating in Britain.

Over 50 businesses in one part of southeast France alone have registered in Britain, reported the newspaper Libération, under the headline "My coiffeur is rich quand il delocaise en Angleterre" (My hairdresser is rich when he moves to England).

"There are many benefits to being registered in Britain rather then France." Labour costs in France are higher and French firms registered here can take advantage of our health and social security system," said Richard Stafford, chairman of the Industrial Committee of Ashford Chamber of Commerce. "There are an investigation of the French firms coming to Ashford. Some have a physical presence, while others only gave a registered one."

The European single market allows the free movement of goods, capital labour and services and both British and French lawyers are aiding the Euro-migrants. But the French-Ministry of Trade has condemned the husinesses who refuse to pay their social security and retirement contributions as acting illegally.

Lined up against the civil servants are the militants among France's small shopkeepers who are encouraging local firms to opt out of paying their social security contributions by setting up offices in Britain.

We've had it up to the eyeballs with the levels of social security we have to pay. The government will have to lower these paynients because so many businesses are moving abroad. If they don't take notice they are idiots, "said a spokesman for the Confederation for the Defence of Shupkeepers and Artisans in Valence, which has about 200,000 members nationally.

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offen Happy Happy our daze for guru of Gonzo

The drugs do work for Hunter S. Thompson, in fact they have kept him going long after many had written him off. Susan Chenery took him for a beer

THE problem with being a practitioner of the heavy balls of an actor. Because the éan, and have a life expectancy beyond 42 hours. You have to live in deep caves in undiscovered valleys or on high, vertiginous mountains where deep winter snow dulls the screaming and shooting and buries the buties until spring. There is only one man for the joh. Hunter Stockton Thompson. And he is one scary dude.

Hunter is what happens when rehah fail: When case-hardened specialists exanuse the patient then go shricking into the right. When weird and dangerous crea- . ture: carrying guns and staggering and screaming across mountains are not lassped filled with tranquillisers and sent away to scientific laboratories in cages. He is unreconstructed drugus fiendus. Full-blown psychosis. The last furching guest at the party the was the Sixties.

Asjen was preternaturally quiet that morning in May, as the plane came in through the carryons on a blast of cold wind. From the foot of the mountain the snow was hluding in the late morning sun. And from the window of the Jerome Hotel it. streaked across fir trees and away up the mountain. Hunter sat at the bar drinking whisky wearing a slouch hat rakishly angled, and baggy army farigues. He seemed kinder somebow, mellowed, Less menac-

A hage, large-limbed and flestry man with a cigarette drooping from a holder in jabbering.". his mout). Hunter, against all the sizeable odds staiked by himself, seemed not only to have halted the ageing process but thrown i into reverse. He had gained weight and he actually looked younger than . he did fiv: years before.

Te hunched over the Jerome bar and engaged in some idle consersation, catching up. He reached across and patted my knee. "So, Susan," he growled, "what do you want tonight? Explosions? Serious talk?"

Hunter." I said, acting insouciant. "Let's just, you know, talk."

Over 30 years ago, after living with the Hell's Angel for 18 months and writing a best-selling book in their defence - serious journalism about the way they had been negatively mythologised which only hinted at what he was to become - he retreated here .. to the mountains and began mythologising himself instead. Nowadays, apart from occasional and often disastrous forays out into the real world, he lives reclusively.

It was in the privacy of his own strange home that he hecame Dr Hunter S. Thompson, the great Gonzo journalist. Perhaps the only one in captivity. It was here that the drugs hegan to take hold. Here in this log cabin he became the mon-

ster of his own creation. In The Great Shark Hunt he explained just exactly what Gonzo journalism is: "It is a style of 'reporting' based on William Faulkner's idea that the best fiction is far more true than any kind of journalism and that the best journalists have always known this... My idea with Fear and Louhing in Las Vegas was to buy a fat noteback and record the whole thing, as it haprened, then send in the notebook for pyblication-without editing... True Gonzo reporting needs the talents of a master jour-

Gonzo journalism is that you have to he ... writer must be a participant in the scene. inhuman to pull it off with elegance and while he's writing it - or at least taping it. or even sketching it. Or all three.'

"Gonzo journalism came from total despair, total failure," he tells me. "I would be on assignment somewhere missing the deadline, the editor would be panicking so I would have to send my notes. So I would: just pull my notes out of the pad and send them. Eventually I became very good at keeping notes."

He does not even begin writing until he is stoned out of his gourd each night. And drunk. I once saw him ingest an ounce of marijuana, a gram of cocaine, a bottle of whisky, some gin and a (ah of LSD, alternating the cocktail until he was ready to write, around midnight. The elegant sentences and savage satire do not come easily. "Sometimes they do," he says when I tell him this, but the punctuation and rhythm don't always. I see writing as riffs, as pure music." Most of his work comes out of a lot of yelling, shooting, drugs, and torment, usually of other people. It is a team sport, usually involving a secretary (a fairly high turnover on this front), girlfriend (also a high turnover, but generally young), trusted friends, dealers, a roaring open fire, the stereo at full volume, and the constant flickering of the television across the stations looking for ideas and hall games. By the time he hits the hot tuh, a nightly ritual, he is, in his own words, "raving and

temporary stylists living out his art or a sad gibbering old wreck whose time has passed is a question of taste, I guess. Much of his early work was brilliant: seminal, peerless journalism. Informed, hilarious, wide-rangmg. The Ali piece, the Kentucky Derby, the piece that launched his career and changed journalism as we know it, a piece on travelling with Teddy Kennedy to visit Governor Jimmy Carter in Georgia, the piece on the Roxanne Pulitzer divorce trial in Palm Beach in which the illustrious Pulitzer name "Er, I don't think that will be necessary, was considerably blackened by tales of cocaine sluttishness and wanton sex with everyone from the help to other women.

"There was a tortured and smouldering love affair between me and Roxanne," he admits with an uncharacteristically coy smile. "Yeah. Roxanne is one of my loves. which we denied for a while during the trial. She got nothing from the settlement. She was not quite beautiful enough for Palm Beach. I have never told anyone that. . Goddamn it, Susan, if you want to interview me you have to realise that I was al-

ways really out there." He went to Zaire, New Orleans, the Nixon resignation, Vietnam on expenses and never got around to writing anything when he got back. When he arrived for his first comhat mission in Vietnam at six o'clock in the morning he was wearing Bermuda shorts, sneakers with no socks; a Hawaiian shirt, baseball cap, shades, cigarette in cigarette holder. Two room-boys carried his chest of ice with beer. Nick Proffitt in Hunter: "Looked in the car - no Hunter. We looked down the highway and there was Hunter, mean, a mile down the damn road. Walking along. Talking into his tape recorder. Heading right toward where the troops were, the last South Vietnamese presence on the highway. Well, first of all, we debated whether to let the son naist, the eye of an artist/photographer and of a hitch get himself killed. Then we

Raying reporter: Hunter S. Thompson in a rare moment of relaxation at his mountain hideaway jumped in the jeep and I sort of had to beat the driver about the head and shoulders to get him to go down the road. We pulled up alongside Hunter and grabbed him and

threw him in the car. I'd say we were no

more than five hundred meters from the

first North Vietnamese outpost." It was the opium dens that got Hunter in Vietnam. If his work seems thinner now and descends, occasionally, into gibberish, if he appears to have lost it, he is just doing what he has always done - drugs and

"He works hard," his friend Dan told me later. "He is up there working every night, he is not always partying and blowing things up. He works."

Therein, I think, lies the key to Hunter's continued presence on the planet. He might put on a show for visitors to engineer his had hoy image, he certainly vacuums a lot of substances, but he never stops working up there on his mountain.

the great Gonzo was cooking as I arrived that night at five, a sight to behold, as smoke billowed through the kitchen. Hunter kept backing into the corner, like a caged animal, recoiling from my tape recorder as if it might be radioactive. "OK," he said at one point, lurking in the darker recesses of his kitchen, "fire away." Then he walked out the door. On my tape recorder, doors are slamming in the background, a gun is cocked, there is a lot of sniffing, ice clinks in glasses, and long silences are underscored by bouncing balls and hysterical screaming on the giant television. And we must rely on my tape recorder and scrawled notes from here on in because my memory of events by then could not be considered reliable. And he mumbles and mutters and slurs and changes direction so much that it is almost impossible to understand him anyway. There are glittering moments of lucidity though, every now and then.

The kitchen is a command centre from which Hunter works like some spastic bad guy from a Bond film, often wearing only his hathrobe and chomping on a cigarette

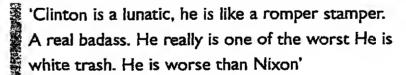
He stays in touch with the evil empire with the help of a sometimes recalcirant fax, a confusing telephone system and a satellite dish which allows him to hearn into almost any television network anywhere. The decor is difficult to accurately describe. Arrested adolescence meets psychopathic hillhilly meets eccentric writer. The Stars and Stripes flag hangs across the kitchen window and a large lamp acts as a noticeboard.

lunch during the campaign, in a bid for Rolling Stone to deliver its audience. Hunter and the candidate, by Hunter's account, appeared to scare the hell out of

each other. And he did make it to Little Rock for election night, shambling menacingly around the Capital Hotel, drunk, as always.

on the job. "In polities," he murables now, "we can count Mr Bill as the number one pig. Sly. evil. Some are more equal than others. Clinton appears, er, er, sour, degenerate, er, er, all men are swine. If you don't listen to what I am saying. Susan, I am going to

kill you.



The rest is chaos. There are piles of papers books and videos everywhere, an old upright piano literally buckles under their weight. Fairy lights glisten through the house. A full-size skeleton stands sentinel in the corner, a luckless visitor perhaps. overseeing a collection of stuffed animals poised in interrupted flight. Loaded guns

lie around, leaning in corners. By the time his book on the 1992 Clinton election campaign, Better Thun Sev. was published, standards had clearly slipped. He didn't by this stage find it necessary to go out on the actual campaign, he communicated with pertinent people by fax and watched it on television, although he and Jann Wenner did meet with Clinton for

A throat clears nervously in the back-

ground. More süence. "He is from a morally hankrupt position, anyway," Hunter resumes. I am ohviously listening to his satisfaction now. People are swine from the start, people are whores."

I rally for a suicidal moment, "So are you getting sick of politics?"

Yeah, I am getting sick of disease too. But on any given day," he continues, "I will participate because I must. Yeah. I am addicted to politics in the sense that I have a vested interest in controlling... and if I don't someone else will. And if it happens you get a little flare up."

Foolhardy to the end. I gamely go on.

Why do you hate Clinton so much.

Photograph: Paul Harris/Alpha

"He is a lunatic, he is like a romper stamper. A real badass. He really is one of the worst. He is white trash."

Even with a loaded gun waved around I just don't quit. "Worse than Nixon?"

unter seems to have calmed down "Yeah, worse than Nixon, I have Lio admit. I have thought about it for a long time and I have to admit that I like Nixon better than Clinton. I had more fun with Nixon than I had with Clinton. That's funny. That tells you something, I

had more fun with Nixon." Evil chuckle, In her book, E. Jean Carroll quotes Hunter's friend, David Felton, saying: "Two major changes occurred with Hunter. One of them was when he started to use cocaine... The second thing that got in his way was the celebrity."

Indeed he is a phenomenon. He represents the walk on the wild side that most people will never take. He seeks attention in his writing but he shrinks from its effects. "I don't want to meet my fans, some of them are dangerous. I get the crazies."

Then we are talking about writers. "Tom Wolfe would have been better, you know, would have realised his potential if he didn't have a drinking problem. I love Tom, he is a wonderful guy, but the drinking, it has heen a problem for him." Coming from Hunter, this is an extraordinary statement.

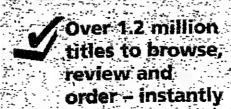
Lask him it he knew what he was doing back in the Sixties when he was pioneering Gonzo journalism. "I am professional." he says with great dignity. "I am who I am. Here we go" – and his great bald head leans forward into the trough.

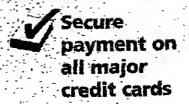
Susan Chenery will soon join the Independent on Sunday. This article is taken from her book, Talking Dirty, published in Aus-

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The last picture show at Greenwich

A new book of photographs provides a unique pictorial history of performances from the past 15 years at the recently closed Greenwich Theatre, writes Nicole Veash

March. For nearly 30 years, the small, downat-heel building south of the Thames in London played host to some of the biggest faces in show business. Many actors made their names on the Greenwich stage, others revived flagging careers. For 15 years Stephen Moreton-Prichard caught the essence of the place on film with his frontof-house photographs.

Over the years, I have taken pictures of many famous faces and have often thought that, pulled together, they would make a great book," he says, "When the theatre closed. I realised it would be a good way to raise money to try to help it re-open."

Greenwick Theatre - the early years is Moreton-Prichard's homage to his hometown playhouse. Black and white prints of Max Wall, Barbara Windsor, Mia Farrow. a young Nicholas Lyndhurst and many others form a fascinating historical record of the theatre's short but celebrated life.

Founded in 1969 by artistic director Ewan Hooper, Greenwich Theatre was built on the site of an old music hall. Although it was highly regarded in the national and local arts community, its £196,000 London Art's Board grant was axed in January. The theatre, which drew 50,000 theatregoers through its doors each year, needs just £200,000 a year to survive. Supporters are organising a recovery fund bine against the photographer," he says, "The tions, but Gwen Watford gave a real per-

GREENWICH Theatre closed on 28 and are struggling to re-open the doors in time for the autumn season, planning to prop up in-house stagings with regular touring productions.

Moreton-Prichard trained as a portrait painter but he made his living photographing buildings for civil engineers. In fact, he wasn't very interested in theatre. "I never particularly liked the theatre," he says. "I didn't like the stench of grease paint and whenever I went things always seemed to go wrong. Doing the front-of house stills only took three days in every six weeks, so it made a change from looking at buildings."

Gradually, Moreton-Prichard got caught up in the community atmosphere of the theatre. "In the early days, Greenwich had very little money hut everyone was so enthusiastic. I remember one lighting sets and costume might not be finished, the engineer carrying steel girders up and down a ladder until his feet were bleeding, just so he could finish the rig on time."

photographing actors. It wasn't really my ing for the best angles, but Stephen was the style. I didn't want to get in their way while they were rehearsing and they didn't pose for me. I always had a certain neurosis in Prichard never spoke to the stars, but he the dark room, worried that the prints has many memories. "The production wouldn't come out right."



lighting not finalised and the actors jittery with opening night nerves. The last thing they want is a photographer clicking his shutter He says he was "absolutely terrified of and wandering around the auditorium look-

essence of tact." As the silent photographer. Moretonthat really made me feel the magic of Hooper confirms Moreton-Prichard's theatre was Chekhov's Three Sisters, Most "hidden-observer" style. "Many things com- actors in dress rehearsal go through the mo-

formance. She had tears streaming down her face, it was an amazing moment."

Not everyone's talent shone out so strongly. Barbara Windsor, in her post-Carry On... pre-EastEnders days, suffered in the Marie Lloyd story, Sing a Rude Song, as Moreton-Prichard recalls, "Barbara Windsor had a wonderful personality but she couldn't sing and she knew it. She was starring in a musical and by the end of the first week she had lost her voice. It was the Saturday-night finale and she was standing in a diminishing spotlight, creaking through the last number, with tears streaming down

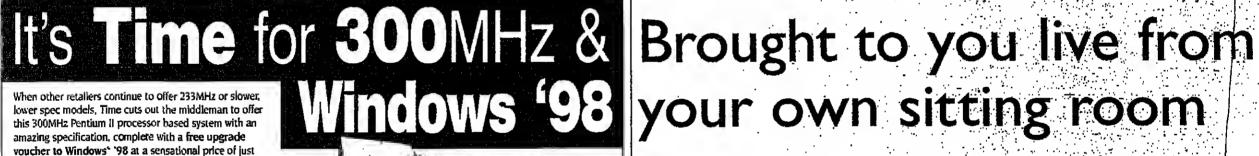
her face. The audience gave her a standing ovation when she finished."

Two pictures in the book show Max Wall, the comic clown turned tragic actor. "Greenwich revived Max's career," says Moreton-Prichard, "He was shut out of theatre after running away with a model, which was a terrible scandal in those days. Ewan Hooper brought him out of forced retirement. Wall ended up living in Moreton-Prichard's spare bedroom. "I thoughthe was only going to stay for the duration of the show, but in the end he was with us for a couple of months. You would imag-

inche loved alcohol, but be actually drink endless cips of tea.

Moreton-Prichard's book is mainlybic torial with minimal captions and explinations. There is a story behind everyone of these pictures, but I wanted the actors and characters to stand alone," he lays. This is just a picture book; after all

For a copy of Greenwich Theatre - the arty years' send a self-addressed label and cleauc. for £16.50 (including p&p) made payable to Greenwich Theatre Recovery Fund o 20 Gramille Park, London SE13 7E4.



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Fiona Sturges watches a man and his puppets perform The Hunting of the Snark'

"I'M NOT used to all this space," grumbles actor, director and artist Warwick Broadhead. "What am I going to do with it all?" The 53-year-old Antipodean is hosting a party in a London office, where he will be performing a condensed version -"a teaser" - of his current proiect, an extraordinary rendering of Lewis Carroll's epic poem The Hunting of the Snark.

Falling somewhere between a Punch and Judy show and a poetry recital, Broadhead's act is intended for the living room rather than the theatre, using miniature dolls instead of actors. But even in this larger venue, our photographer is still jostling with a television crew for a good view.

Charging £300 a show, Broadhead prefers not to perform for an andience of more than 20 at a time - understandable considering the Lilliputian dimensions of his cast. His smallest attendance so far was just one person a Carroll devotee whose wife hired the performer as a birthday present. She also made her hushand a throne from which he could view the proceedings.

Less eccentric patrons have included actress Kerry Fox (of a snake festival, where he gained Shallow Grave and Welcome to Surajevo fame), some overtly curious RSC actors and a host of smart London literary types who now think that going to the theatre is rather passe.

Broadhead is a performance artist from New Zealand with in a year) Broadhead decided to a long history in the theatre. "I. didn't have formal training, but in my early 20s I had a strong urge to get up in front of people and be noticed." he recalls. From there, I learned through trial and error." He has tried his hand at everything - costume, make-up, singing, script-writing,



Epic proportions: Broadhead in performance Geriant Lewis

acting, directing, all skills he used for the show.

He first found inspiration in Rajasthan, where he saw paintings executed by the single hair of a camel. "They were the most exquisite things I had ever seen. I knew then that I would do the Snark in miniature, so that it, too, would be exquisite."

He was also in India during more ideas. "I saw these snake charmers in people's houses, where all the family would sit down to watch - I thought I could do the same with the Snark." After great success in New Zealand (over 200 shows

hring his show to Britain. A Carroll aficionado, he has previously directed productions of Alice in Wonderland and Through The Looking Glass in New Zealand. "It's his wit and his wisdom that is so brilliant." says Broadhead. "He is full of good advice about life. And at

the same time, it's wonderfully nonsensical."

Such enchanted tales provide the perfect setting for Broadhead's own childlike approach to theatre, though he points outthat it is a show for adults. "Children would never sit still for an hour and 40 minutes." His Snark is strictly a one-man show ("I'm the driver here"), though he employs the delicately crafted dolls as silent performers. "It takes people back to when they performed to their parents," he explains, "If's a kind of nostal-

As the narrator, he rejects the customary serious garb in favour of the jocular Captain Hook look - black eyeliner, a flouncy shirt and carefully gel and a twist"). He adjusts the lights by a remote control secreted in his back pocket. though he seems more at home with candiclight, another ploy To book a performance, cal to take his audience back to the

gic journey."

days of steaming cocoa, bedtime stories and nightlights.

Tonight, the poen's eight fits are reduced to four to allow for all the interviewing filming and photographing. As he starts the first fit. The Landing." Broadhead is like a magician pulling tricks from a hat. Giving each a boisterous introduction, he plucks his baked Fimo characters from the seemingly bottomless suitcese. He recites the verse excitedly, punctuating it with burses of clarinet and sporadically embelishing events to elicit more aughs (I don't suppose Carroll envisaged the Maker of Bondets puking over the side of the boat).

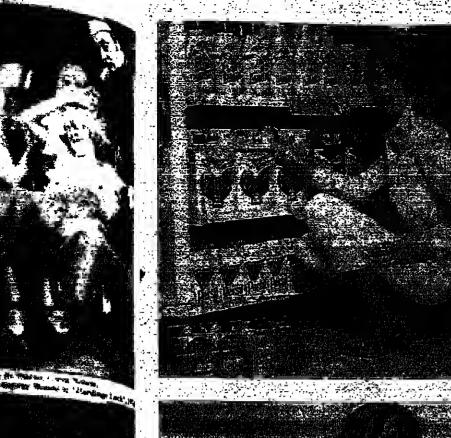
Despite racing through the text. Broadhead spends rather too much time arranging and : rearranging the contents of his suitcase, and the cropped narrative becomes more nonsensical than even Carroll intended it. His habit of wandering off the text into extemporaneous waffle indicates that his imagination. is sometimes bigger than that cf his audience. But this confusion is counterbalanced by his engaging and infectious-energy and Broadhead's rendering was never meant to be an academic exercise.

The reason why patrons might not be completely captivated is self-consciousness. Bringing the theatre to your home is all very well, but it is difficult to imagine your domicile as a giant ship bouncing around on the high seas. This kind of armchair entertainment cvokes similar feelings to hosting a parsculpted eyehrows ("a blob of ty in your living room. All in the name of good fun, but you know more people would be dancing if you were in a club.

0973 638610.

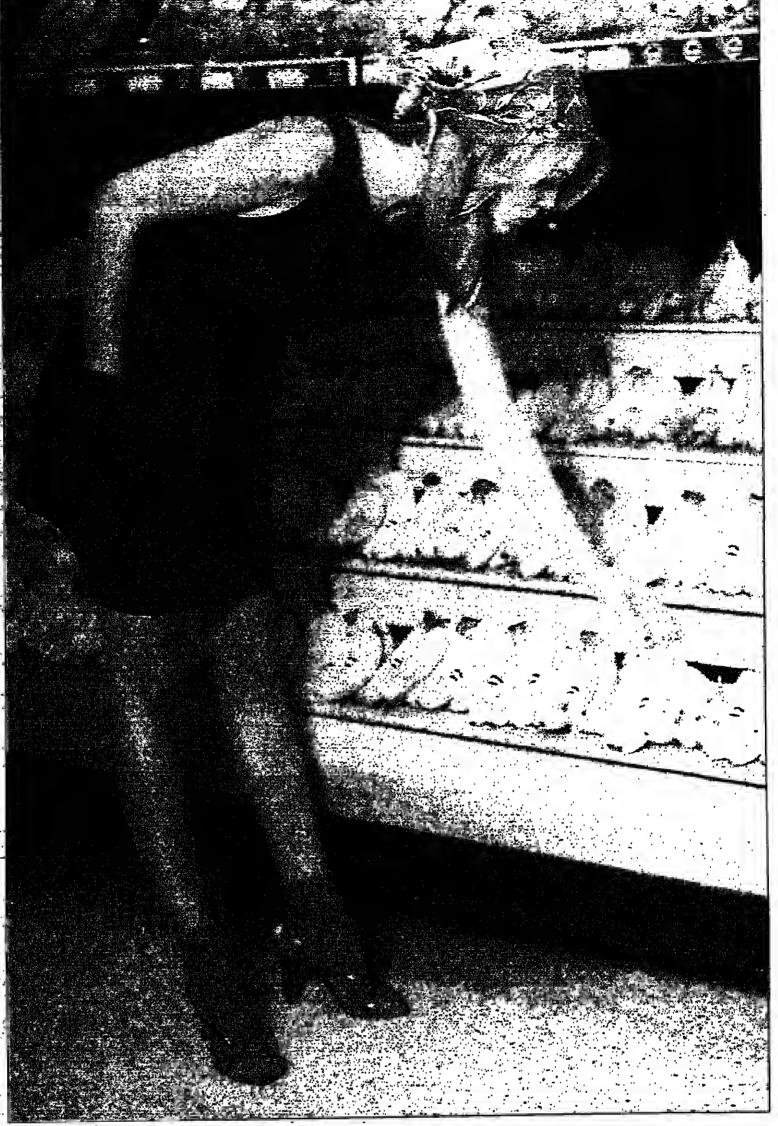


15/FASHION









Left: navy garden smock dress, £25, floral cotton scarf, worn on head, as before; pop socks, as before; strappy high heels, £185, by Gina for Ghost, 13 Hinde Street, London W1, 36 Ledbury Road, London Will. enquiries 0181-960 3121.

Top left: white cotton floral print shirt, £35, and matching belt, both from Laura Ashley. pink pop socks, £6, by Hue, from Dickins and Jones. Regent Street, London WI and other House of Fraser stores nationwide, enquiries 0171-436 4091; pale blue stilettos, made to order, by Manolo Blahnik for Antonio Berardi, 49 Old Church Street. London SW3, enquiries 0171-352 3863.

Centre left: pink floral sleeveless shirt. £25, beige cotton stretch trousers, £40, both by Laura Ashley; socks, scarf, both as before Bottom left: green scarf, worn as top. £10, all from Laura Ashley, Regent Street, London WI, and branches nationwide. enquiries 0990-622 II6; white cotton trousers, £30, by Laura Ashley.

I can't believe it's really Laura Ashley

REPORT BY TAMSIN BLANCHARD PHOTOGRAPHS BY JON MORTIMER STYLING BY SOPHIA NEOPHITOU HAIR AND MAKE-UP BY BEVERLY BROOKE AT JULIE:BRAMWELL . .

STYLIST'S ASSISTANT: HOLLY DAVIES PHOTOGRAPHER'S ASSISTANT: MARK MOON SHOT ON LOCATION AT BUDGENS, BAYSWATER

WHAT would happen if the ailing high street chain Laura Ashley underwent a radical restyle? What if lovely Laura went back to her roots and reasserted her personality? With a new designervaring to get his truth into the archiver, suc-

cess could be just around the corner. After all, look at the phenomenal change in fortunes at Chice, the French house whose flagging business has been revived by young designer Stella McCartney. McCartney has certainly breathed new life into an old dog making Chloe hip and sassy for women like Stella in their twenties, as well as women like the designer's fifty something mother, Linda, who wore Chloe first time around. The case - and indeed, the spirit

- of Laura Ashley is not so dissimilar. The Laura Ashley story began in 1953 when the Welsh-born designer began in home furnishings. In 1969, she launched her collection of aprous, smocks and dresses, by which time her name was known up and down the country. Her selling point then was a romantic pastoral look,

all flounces, frills and milkmaid - perfect for the early Seventies brown rice, love and peace ethic. By the time Ashley died at the age of 60 in 1985 however, her signature had not sufficientby moved with the times or with her customer. By 1989, the company had to begin laying off

workers, although business improved with the introduction of Ann Iverson, the retail wonder woman who looked set to revive profits. In 1993, Laura Ashley was back with a profit of £3 million. But at the beginning of the year, Iverson's magic spell was over and profits fell 44 per cent.

The problem - the brand was trying to be all things to all women, from daughter to grandmother. In reality, most young women want to get away from wearing the label their mothers wore and the label they wore as children. Take Alice Davies, a 22-year-old from Lincoln, who was born and bred on a diet of Laura Ashley. from the wallpaper in her bedroom to the pink bridesmaid's dress she wore to her sister's wedding. At 13, the pink dress was sweet and girly,

but that was the last time she ever wore Laura Ashley. From then on it was Top Shop, French Connection and Warehouse.

"It's still really nice for little children and hits of it are still nice for my mum who is 51, but she has got a younger outlook than she used to. She hasn't got the kids any more. She uses paint and not wallpaper. She's an independent woman. She likes the plain things like the T-shirts. But shops like Oasis and Gap cater much better for that age of woman now."

Georgia Cox, a 23-year-old arts graduate agrees. She buys most of her clothes in charity shops or Jigsaw. The last time she set foot inside Laura Ashley was at the age of 14 when she bought some cushion covers to match her bedroom curtains. "I do still wear one dress," she admits. "But I cut the label out. It's plain black and you'd never know. My mother bought it for me six years ago. I suppose my mum thought it was somewhere to make your children look re-

Ideally, Laura Ashley would like to recapture some of those young women when they themselves become mothers. The mental age of their core customer is, they say, thirty-something. The label's new designer is ex-Ralph Lauren, the American success story that for so long has sold the British heritage look so much better than Laura Ashley. It will be his job to steer the collections away from looking like the rest of the high street and back towards the essence of Laura Ashley: romantic, pretty, and natural.

The company has huge potential with a world-famous name and an equally recognisable signature. It is a marketing coup just waiting to explode. Expect closer attention to detail - trimming, smocking, and archive prints used in a fresh way. But the new look is not expected to he fully implemented until next Spring. Until then, ignore your preconceptions and look out for classic print shirts and the reintroduction of Seventies best sellers like the work-wear apron pictured here, and try not to look like a Stepford Wife.

HOT THING

Pocketknife trainer by Nike

I HADN'T succumbed until now. but I fear I may have officially become a fashion victim. It started two weeks ago after spotting these lovely trainers in menswear fashion store Jones. Called 'Pocketknife' and by Nike, they are streamlined, chic, bendy, and designed specifically for canocists. I thought 'Mmmm nice. I'll buy them at the end of the month.' Litlimited-edition nature) they had become 'must-haves' and sold out. I called the shop only to be told "Sorry, there's a waiting list, you'll have to wait for the next shipment, can'l take your name and numer that word about the Pocketknife Dermott, "hut here they were don, WC2 Enquiries: 0171 240 finamed because they are so flex- cult buys." Suitably impressed, 1 8312

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ible they can be folded in half and put my name down, though I tucked into a rucksack) has spread fast. They were sourced by Jones's in the near future. I'll hear in two buyer, Carlos Williams. He met a weeks. By then (and thanks to my an eye, (and thanks to their trendy man who knew another man who new found status as an 'official' could get these slimline sneakers fashion victim) I'll probably have that were regarded as boring in the moved onto the next thing. Kung US but potentially hip in the UK. Fu perhaps. "It was the same with Nike Air Rift. [the ones with cloven toes], nobody wanted them in the US," says store spokesman Kevin Mac- from Jones, 13 Floral Street, Lon-

don't expect to take up canoeing Melanie Rickey

☐ Nike Pocketknife, £85, available

OUT OF THE CLOSET

LISA l'ANSON, the husky-voiced presenter of

Radio One's weekend lunchtime shows, opens her

wardrobe and reveals her fashion secrets

huy. Probably fuschia pink highheeled Pammy Anderson LA Hooker shoes that are still sitting in a box somewhere.

When I'm presenting on the radio at the weekend there aren't many people around so I can be really laid back, combat trousers and little Agnes B vest tops.

My favourite designers are Gharani Strok, two young girls. Boyd and YMC, all young, hip, upand-coming labels. I love fashion and am a bit of a fashion junkie.

I like the look of Valentino. If money was no object then I'd dress in a cross between Portobello Road and Valentino. The last

1 TRY not to buy hideous things.
The worst buy is most likely a PMT thing I bought - I think - was a top from Agnès B. But how many blue tops do you need?

Ive been making sure my son Dylan is kitted out. Baby Gap is pretty cool. And a really good friend of mine has a son older than mine so she passes things on for

I love Adidas 'old school' trainers. I have about fifteen pairs in different colours. My favourite are a suede camel pair. They're just cool shoes and 1 feel good in them. They get distributed throughout the family.

Even my Mum has borrowed a pair, she doesn't realise how hip

Adam Fulcher



DOYCET

Are we money mad?

People would rather talk about their sex lives than their finances. A new book works out why. Roger Dobson reports

ter, master into slave, stupidity into intelligence and intelligence into stupidity."

Wise man, two of Britain's leading psychologists, Professor Adrian Furnham, of University College London, and Professor Michael Argyle, of Oxfurd Brookes University, would say, Few people have better understood its power over us. Certainly, few people have ever tried to make sense of its role in the formation of our characters; what makes some people savers and other spenders; why some become bargain hunters and others fashion victims; and whether money can huy happiness or cause obsessive sadness.

We know a great deal about the psychology of sex. selection of a partner and even singing, but little on the psychology of saving, shopping or spending. Whereas sex and death have been removed from the taboo lists in most western countries, money is still a topic that appears impolite to discuss and dehate," say Professor Furnham and Professor Argyle in The Psychology of Money. which is published on Monday.

According to the professors, nowhere is this taboo more apparent than in Britain. Whatever problems we have with money, whether we are bargain hunters or gamblers. fashion victims or shopaholics. the difficulties in dealing with it are compounded by the fact that money is the unmentionable. Compare that with the way in which people willingly talk about sex, death, mental illness. religion, and other once-taboo subjects. Quiz them about their income or savings or their wealth and the shutters will come down. Yet, money can stirpowerful emotions.

The very rich eschew talking about their money in case the poor figure out how to get it for themselves or because friends and relatives might come round for a share of the pot. The wealthy lear envy and others are superstitious that talking about it means it could be lost. "Celebrities and ordinary mortals seem happier to talk about their sex lives and mental illnesses long before monetary status, salary or financial trans-

actions," say the professors. Humanity, according to the pair, can be divided into two onthe subject of money; savers and spenders. Whereas spenders. otten seen as self indulgent and capricious, live for the present. savers tend to be more optimistie. They posipone grantication. by putting off consumption to some uncertain future date and

receive a reward for doing will Whether we are a spender or a saver also has its origins in . distant childhood. The crucial moment for the formation of

"MONIES," said Karl Marx. our attitude to money is around "change fidelity into infidelity. The age of two, when we strive love into hate, virtue into vice, to achieve independence and a vice into virtue, slave into masses sense of self-worth. Some equate spending with receiving affection and hence feel more inclined to spend when feeling insecure or in need of affection.

Parental reactions to defining moments may determine the most extreme obsessions with money. According to some therapists, the way in which a miser hoards maney is symbolic of a child's refusal to give up something in the face of parental demands. Whereas the spendthrift recalls the approval and affection that came when they submitted to parental authority.

According to Profs Furnham and Argyle, our approach to money is shrouded in hypocrisy. "Many stress that you only get what you pay for, but spend hours trying to seek genuine bargains. Money is publicly disavowed, and privately sought after, and, simultaneously, is the most important quality in the world, hut spoken of as having little value, they say.

Can it buy you happiness? Hundreds of new millionaires have been created through the National Lottery, and the craving for wealth as a means of contentment is more apparent than ever in this country. Most - eight out of 10 - use the win to give up jobs and many move house. But research with pools winners found that 70 per cent gave up their work, only to regret losing job satisfaction and workmates. Some moved to a larger house and were rejected by snobbish neighbours and some quarrelled with family and friends who wanted a share. Some had an identity problem. with only one in three certain of which class they now belonged to. New wealth hring problems because it upsets routine. and changes the security of our surroundings.
"There is evidence that peo-

ple are happier if they think they are doing better than other people, or than they did themselves previously. Other sources of happiness are much more important - leisure, job satisfaction. social relations and personality. Money has very little effect on How we behave with mon-

ev is also affected by the messages about wealth we get from our parents. One piece of behavioural research reported in The Psychology of Money found children who had been told that only poor people went to heaven, or that only criminals were wealthy. But perhaps the most revealing was the contribution of one child, who told the researchers: "My parents said there was a secret to making money, but that no one in our family knew what it was."

The Psychology of Money by Adrium Furnham and Michael Argele, Roudedge, 14,99.



The Ghost of Christmas Past introduces Scrooge to the Devil, as seen by Arthur Rackham

Painting: MEPL

HO WHEN IT COMES TO CASH

The Bargain Hunter: Compulsively hunts for bargains even if they are not wanted because getting things for less makes them feel superior. The thrill is in outsmarting others.

The Spendthrift: Uncontrolled, particularly when depressed. Seeling worthless and rejected. Seaks instant, but short-lived gratification that frequently

The Miser: Scrooges have a terrible fear of losing funds, and tends to be distrustful. Refuses to accept own behaviour as niggardly.

The Tycoor: Seeks power, status and approval through money. The more they have, the more control they have over their world, and the happier they are.

The Gambler: Exhilarated and

optimistic in taking chances. Achieves sense of power when winning. Motives include stimulation or low self-esteem.

The Entrepreneur: Often nonconformist, rebellious, distrustful of authority; unwilling to work with others, and come from families where they were not appreciated or were from minority groups, giving them a great drive to succeed and establish a new Identity.

Gay ship that cruised into stormy waters

THE BERTHING of a cruise ship in downtown Nassau is awesome to behold. Dwarfing the colonial architecture all around, these giant hulks disgorge whole new populations into the city streets. For the shops and bars and for the labyrinthine wharfside curio market it is an invasion gratefully received.

Just sometimes, however, a ship can expect a recep-

tion that is less warm. That was the fate of Scabreeze I on Monday. Chartered by a travel company in Miami speciallising in cruises for gays, its passengers were all lesbians. About 300 Bahamians were waiting on the dockside with placards and chants demanding that the boat sail away. "No Gay Ships" read the signs.

Nothing else happened. The protesters were kept a good distance from the disembarking passengers, who were quickly ferried to a private island for their stay. But the incident has reawakened a controversy with multiple constituencies - policy-makers in the Caribbean islands for sure, but also anti- and pro-gay forces in the United States and even the Government in London.

The fire was set in January, when the Cayman Islands, which is a British Dependent Territory, turned away a Norwegian Cruise Line ship carrying gay men. Io an inflammatory letter to the line, the Cayman tourist minister, Thomas Jefferson, wrote that: "Careful research and prior experience has led us to conclude that we cannot count on this group to uphold the standards of appropriate behaviour expected of visitors to the Cayman Islands."

The incident drew attention to a feature shared by most Caribbean islands, which, to many of us who love to visit them, may seem out of tune with the region's casy-going, sun-loving persona. Anti-sodomy laws are still on their books and homophobia is still a powerful emotion.

And it is true not just of the smaller islands. In March, the Village People, the 1970s hand that evoked gay liberation with songs like YMCA and Macho Man, abruptly withdrew from a music festival in Jamaica after their impending presence stirred strong protests. Last year, 16 Jamaican inmates suspected to be homosexuals were killed during a prison riot after the government proposed distributing condoms to prisoners and guards to curb the spread of Aids.

In February, a request was lodged with the British Dependent Territories in the Caribbean, including the Cayman Islands, by the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, that they consider repealing their anti-sodomy laws. London said it was worried that they violated international human rights statutes. So far, the Cayman government has notresponded. Anti-gay groups in the US were enraged, how-ever. Most vocal has been the influential American Family Association, which has been at the forefront of the attempted and mostly ineffectual howcost of the Disney Company for its gay-friendly policies.

. The Association has since bombarded the British Emhassy in Washington with letters protesting at Mr Cook's initiative. Yesterday, Allen Wildmon, one of the Association's leaders, told The Independent that he was proposing to members that they show their disgust by boycotting-Britain on their travels. "Britain has a right to do whatever they want to do.

but by the same token, if the Christian community in America don't want to spend their money in England or in the Bahamas then that's their right," Mr Wildmon asserted. Mr Wildmon is not coy about what upsets him. With

stunning hluntness, he continued: "You know, there is nothing normal about one man putting his penis in another man's colon. I mean let's tell it like it is". As Kim Mills, spokeswoman for the pro-gay Human

Rights Campaign in Washington DC, noted yesterday, the ineffectiveness of the boycott on Disney suggests that Britain's tourist industry need not panic. Nor need anyone be too distraught over what transpired in Nassau on Monday. "What happened was that a small group of very intol-

erant people got together and made a lot of noise. But for the most part, the Bahamians are a reasonable and fair-minded people and this was not disturbing to most of those living on the islands," Ms Mills contended.

Yet, this is a story that is far from over. The travel companies specialising in gay holidays - and there are many in the US - are busily considering how to juggle destinations to avoid trouble. Meanwhile, pressure from Britain

on its territories to reform their laws will not abate. "We are absolutely determined that they their laws. should not be in violation of the international conventions." an official at the British Embassy in Washington said yesterday. "Obviously, we would prefer the territories to make their own decisions internally, but we may consider doing it for them if we have to".

David Usborne

THE INDEPENDENT



LAVA LAMP -

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temerabet just how incredibly popular they were in the section. how they're beck with a vengeance and more popular than even Originally designed in 1963 and now back in production again these beautiful-Is re-latinghed originals are to mendous fun and delightfully theraperate. As-

the best from the bulb warms the "laya", all kinds of bubble like shapes for at

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Sad side of the mother and child reunion THEY are the mother and Kilauren has fallen out with

child teunions which give us those rare good-news head-Enes: Kate Adie and the mother who gave her away: Clare Short and the son she thought she'd lost: Joni Mitchell and the daughter she couldn't bring up alone while she struggled to make a living as a 19-year-old folk singer. But these stones of adoptions with happy endings are not so clear-cut after all. Pity the poor adoptive parents left on the sidelines as birth parent and long-lost offspring hug one another for the cameras.

Take the couple who raised Joni Mitchell's child, Kilauren Gibb. Meeting her mother, the darling of the Woodstock set. has been something of an emotional rollercoaster for the 33 year old. This week, it emerged that she has fallen out with adoptive parents, schoolteachers lde and David Gibbs, and her once obse relationship with her brother is strained.

Ariel Bruce, an independent social worker who has spent 14 years helping trace the families of adopted children, recognises these emotions. She says the secreey surrounding adoption causes problems for many



adopting families. Before 1975, couples undertook to adopt children on the grounds that neither the child nor the birth parents would be able to track one another down. Then, in 1975, the Children Act enabled adopted people over the age of 18 to see their hirth certificates and seek out their natural parents.

This put adoptees' rights at the top of the agenda, which was the most important thing that could have happened, but it also changed the deal for their adopting parents, who had been told by adoption agencies the children were their own, with no strings attached," ex- ing didn't mean I was unhappy,

cases adoptees choose not totell their adopting family they have found their natural parents because the conflict of interests would be too great. They end up keeping that side of their lives completely separate." Jennifer, 50, understands

the reason for that decision. Like television journalist Kate Adie, Jennifer (not her real name) decided not to search for her hirth mother until after her adoptive mother had died. "I always knew I would try to find my real mother but not to the detriment of hurting my adoptive mother," she says, "Searchplains Miss Bruce. In some but I wanted to know about anher adoptive parents since reuniting with her natural mother, Joni Mitchell (left)

other part of my life. My adoptive mother would have found it too painful and threatening." .. In many ways, Jennifer felt

part of the conspiracy of silence which surrounded adoption of vestervear. "There was huge seercey and once the deed was done the whole thing was hidden for years," she says. "Even though I knew I was adopted. it was something we as a family rarely spoke about."

Since 1975, adoptions have fallen from 21,000 a year to 6,000 with just 322 baby adoptions, A recent report by the right-wing think tank, the Institute of Econumic Affairs, claims the downturn in adoption is a result of the entrenched ideology of the absolute rights of biological parents.

For recent adoptees, counselling is available to help them through the stage of finding their parents. Yet, it can still be painful for everyone involved. Thirty years ago Mary (not her real name) prepared herself for the time when her

adopted son would want to search out his hirth mother. "We were always ready for it and for us it was part of the adopting process," she says, "and in many ways we did a lot of the work tracing his natural parents, with both financial and emotional support. "But I can understand why

people are threatened, because

they feel their child could some-

how be taken away from them,

even though that child is now

an adult." For Mary's son, the contact with his hirth mother was far from successful. "I had this dream that we could all be friends," says Mary, "but that was not to be. My son has been deeply affected by the rejection

of his natural mother." Mary believes that adopting parents are often portrayed as the had player in the adoption triangle. People think of young girls being forced to give up their babies to waiting couples. Adopting parents are the ogres in the piece, who want to stop the two innocent parties from reuniting.

Nicole Yeash



Sir lan MacGregor

1N 1983, lan MacGregor hecame Chairman of the National Coal Board and, the following year, embarked oo the most famous, and most hitter, dispute in British political history. It was a dispute which hroke the National Union of Miners and, by extensioo, the power of the trade union movement as a whole.

Not long before Margaret Thatcher had settled ao iodustrial dispute on terms dictated hy the coalminers' leader, Arthur Scargill, David Howell, the theo Secretary of State for Energy, was shocked, for he had been spoiling for a fight. "Doo't worry," the Prime Minister said, "The oext time he comes I'll be ready for him." The next time he came lan MacGregor was ready too.

Scargill believed that, because he and his predecessor, Joe Gormley, had triumphed so easily earlier, he could win again in 1984; besides, he had a wider agenda, for he was determined to hring down the terest in the management of Government, and believed he could do so. He reckoned with- by metallurgy. out two things -- the strength of his opponents' combined willpower, and the fact that the National Coal Board had huilt up huge reserves of coal, in antic-

ipation of a lengthy stoppage. The conflict between the Government and the Coal Board, on the one side, and the National Union of Mineworkers lasted for a year, Increasingly, it was marked by violence on the part of the strikers, and deprivation for the families of the miners. It was also notable for divisions between the mineworkers themselves -- the Union of Democratic Mineworkers was formed in opposition to the NUM - and the trade union movement as a whole; Bill Sirs, the steelworkers' union fleader, repulsed Arthur many years later, was a philos-Scargill's pressure to bring out ophy of management. "Manhis steelworkers in support of the strike, on the sound grounds

and his industry would die. Towards the end of the year miners, seeing that MacGregor and the Prime Minister were implacable, began to drift

that, if steel ovens were allowed

to cool, their walls would crack,

back to work. The Thatcher-MacGregor alliance had gained a total triumph. (Peter Walker, the then Secretary of State, naturally claims in his 1991 autobiography, Surying Power, that he was crucial to the victory. But the fact of the matterwas that there were only three crucial players in this deadly game - Thatcher, MacGregor, and Scargill.) The end result, as Mick McGahey, the Communist leader of the Scottish mineworkers, put it in some acerbic remarks made after MacGregor's death, was "to destroy trade unionism not only in mining, but in Britain".

1an Kinloch MacGregor was born in 1912 in Kinlochleven, Inverness-shire. His pareots were pillars of the United Free Church a strictly Calvinist denomination, and from them he learnt those virtues of hard work and thrift which stayed with him all his life. His father was a works accountant, hut MacGregor evinced no early inmoney, being instead fascinated

After school at George Watson's and Hillhead High School he went to Glasgow University, where he achieved a brilliant first class degree in Metallurgical Engineering, and a diploma with distinction in Science and Technology. Though in later life he was thought of principally as a banker and businessman, it was the thorough understanding of technology which underlay all the achievements of his maturity.

After university he first worked on Clydeside, where his chief mentor was the formidahle shipbuilder Sir James Lithgow, from whom he learned many of the nostra which were to govern his life. Most notable among these, as he explained agement is a calling," he once said, "and people ought to be dedicated to it. British managers have far too much security. A poor manager should be dumped. What's at stake is the happiness of society, not the

comfort of managers."

World War MacGregor was re-cruited to the Ministry of Supply by an equally formidable. though much more flambovant. figure, Lord Beaverbrook (himself of Scottish origins). He was put to work oo tank design and proved so adept that, in 1940, he was sent to the United States to advise the Americans on the metals needed for British armour. He was kept oo for the rest of the war, attached to the British military mission, to advise on war production.

When the war ended he was faced with the first great decision of his adult life: to stay put, or to go home. Partly hecaus he liked the American way of doing husiness, but also -- and perhaps even more importantly - because he feared the consequences for his country of the election of a Labour government, he decided to stay put. He was, much later, to express his liking for the United States by way of a pithy comparison with Great Britain, "I don't like unnecessary class distinctions," he said. "The Americans waste no time on them. They don't care who your father was. If you make it to the top and it comes out that your father made moonshine in Tennessee they admire you even more. Now, 1

like that system." This was the

attitude he was to display when

in charge of the British steel and

coal industries.

However, early in his American career, MacGregor found that American industry was not as thoroughly devoted to the view adumbrated in that quotation as he might have wished. He had become increasingly attracted by the financing side of industry through his work on the purchasing of American metals. In 1949 he essayed the takeover of a firm in Connecticut. The workers struck. They overturned his car (he was inside it) and he was threatened by the Mafia, then a great power in the American trade union movement. He

did not budge; and he won. In spite of such unpleasant experiences, his rise in business was steady, and often spectacular. As its chief executive he turned American Metal Climax At the outset of the Second from being a small, specialist

producer into one of the largest in the United States. In the 1970s, as chairman of the company, he decided to take it into coalmining, and created the third largest force in American coalmining. He joined Lazard Brothers, and became chairman of the International Chambers of Commerce in Paris. He was internationally peripatetic; but constant international travel never tired him, for he was possessed of an exceptionally robust constitution. Age did not diminish his energy. "At my age," he said in his sixties, "some men chase young girls. Some play golf. Some become vegetables.

1 work." Thus he had a hugely successful career already when he was appointed by the Callaghan government to serve as number two to Michael Edwardes at British Leyland. They dismantled the hugely expensive, and heavily loss-making, British motorcar industry - though, over the years, the two men have hitterly disputed which of them deserves most credit.

Then, in 1980, he set about British Steel. Not long after his appointment as chairman I ran into Bill Sirs. I asked him what he thought of his chairman. "1 fear that man," Sirs replied. "I think I fear him even more than I fear that woman." "That woman". of course, was the then Mrs Thatcher. Sirs, from his point of view, was right to fear MacGregor. During his tenure cosy workplace practices were abolished; the labour force was slashed; and British Steel hecame immensely productive and decently profitable. Everybody bowed to MacGregor's formidable will.

In 1981 I attended a fundraising lunch addressed by Mac-Gregor in aid of British ORT. The Organisation for Rehabilitation through Training is the largest non-governmental technical training organisation in the world. Jewish in origin and character, it was founded in Tsarist Russia to encourage Iews to come out of their ghettos, and embark on lives in industry and agriculture, but it now serves peoples of all races, trigued, therefore, to find such "Coal," he instantly replied, "I creeds and colours world-wide. a character willing to devote a want coal." Such was the pow- ter the coal industry period 1998.



'I want coal': MacGregor, centre, as chairman of the National Coal Board

a benign and rather avuncular.

distinctly audible beneath the

overlay of his American accent.

The attraction of ORT for him,

he explained, was its devotion

I love sorting things out." He

was already in his seventies, so

to sort out after British Steel.

troversy of 1980 when he was appointed by Keith Joseph to to him after lunch I found, run British Steel, at a huge salary and the phenomenal Thatcher government paid to Lazard Brothers to secure his services on a full-time basis. And I knew, finally, that he was reputed to be quite uniquely ruthless and hard-nosed both in business and in manner. His speech at the lunch did nothing

I was surprised and in-

to contradict what I had heard

1 knew vaguely about Mac-substantial slice of time from an er of his personality that I went was over, he did not concentrate Gregor. I knew well of the con- already over-crowded pro- away believing be would get gramme to a charity. Chatting coal. After he left the coal indusquite against my expectations,

try - a more emollient figure seemed required to follow his transfer fee of £1.8m which the man, whose Scottish hurr was regime of abrasion -- he kept busy, both with Lazard Brothers and with the rescue, or attempted rescue, of several small firms. One of these firms - in al Climax incorporated 1966, chairto the work ethic. "They sort which he had invested a quarthings out," he explained, "and ter of a million pounds of his personal capital - failed, He believed that creditors had not giv-I was not wholly serious when en him enough time, but he did I asked him what he was going not whinge. After all, as he said "If a manager fails, he fails."

He was once asked why, af-

Photograph: Hulton Getty

solely on his interests in America, "Being British is a faith," he said, "I will never lose it."

Patrick Cosgrave

lan Kinloch MacGregor, businessman; born Kinlochleven, invernessshire 21 September 1912; president and chief executive, American Metman 1969-77; deputy chairman, British Leyland 1977-80; chairman and chief executive, British Steel Corporation 1980-83; chairman, National Coal Board 1983-86; Kt 1986; married 1942 Sibyl Spencer (died 1996; one son, one daughter); died Taunton, Somerset 13 April

Dorothy Squires

SOMEBODY once said: "She could fire a song into her audience with the accuracy of a guided weapon." Small, slender, and in her day stunning, she was a tiny blonde who could hold the great Palladium stage alone while a packed audience of housands sat still, silent and spellbound notil the time came to hring the house down with their applause.

Dorothy Squires's career touched some of the highest heights and lowest lows in the glittering world of popular song. She was born Edna May Squires. it is said in a fairground caravan. in Pontyberem, Carmarthenshire, in 1915 (though reference books veer from 1914 day night spectacular, Variety to 1918). After school she begain working behind the counter came in, from Henry Hall for his of the nearest Woolworth's, then famous for its line "Nothing Over Sixpence".

By night, the 14-year-old Band, a local hunch of semishe had made her way to London, confident that she was good enough to break into the big time. Charlie Kunz, a top pianist of the day, heard her singing in a small night-club and booked her to sing with his own dance hand at the popular Casani Cluh. London was packed with small night-clubs at the time, and word soon went round

about Kunz's new vocalist. One night, Billy Reid, who played piano accordion for Sydney Lipton's Grosvenor House B and, popped in to lend an ear the glamorous new girl. Reid had great talent as a song-writer, as well as an ambition for himself that matched that of Squires. By the mid-Thirties, the two had teamed up and were liott. Together this odd combi-

touring the halls, first as Billy Reid and his Accordion Band with Squires hilled small as the vocalist, then as a double-act of equal partnership, Billy Reid and Dorothy Squires, with Reid oo the accordion and Squires singing the words. The songs. of course, were all written by Reid.

The partnership continued profitably for some 15 years and, although many thought they were man and wife, it seems not so. Reid was, after all, many years Squires's senior. They broadcast together frequently in such BBC radio series as Music Hall and luriety Fanfare, with Squires first going solo in 1945 as the resident vocalist in the big Sun-Bandbax. More solo bookings famous Guest Night, and many other musical series including Melody Lane, Band Parade and .4ll Star Bill. They continued to Edna sang the latest popular star together on the variety hits with the Denza Daoce stage, now topping the hill as "The Composer and the Voice", professionals. Within two years, with Reid exchaoging the piano for the more modern electronic Solovox organ.

The pair began to make records from 1945, and their first was one of their biggest hits. This was "The Gypsy", writteo by Reid and issued by Parlophone. Hit after hit followed; By" (1945), "It's a Pity to Say Goodnight" (1946), "I Love You For Sentimental Reasons" (1947), "There's a Tree in the Meadow" (1948), "Our Love Story" (1949), "1 Remember the Cornfields" (1950), "Be My Love" (1951). lo 1952, she recorded her first duet with another singer, none other than the veteran hlackface star of a previous geoeration, G.H. El-



"Let the Rest of the World Go Star of song: Squires with Roger Moore, 1957

nation of what was then today and yesterday sang "Gimme That Old Soft Shoe".

Nineteen fifty-two was the year of the hig hreaks for Squires, She broke off her long relationship with Billy Reid and met the future Saint and James Bood, Roger Moore, Not yet the famous "evehrow actor", he was at the time a chorus boy supporting the princi-

MP, 49; Earl Russell, historian, 61; Sir Maurice Shock, former Rector,

pal boy in the Brixton Empress pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk. Once again she formed a partnership with a male ambition equalled only by her own, and sooo the two were in Hollywood, with a home in Beverly Hills and a Warner Bros cootract for Moore. They married despite Moore's toy-boy status: he was

Photograph: Hulton Getty

Moore paid tribute to her in an interview earlier this year: "1 learned a great deal from Dot," he said. "I learned to be my own person. I used to he rather timid and, like a lot of actors, I was glad to hide behind a character. But with Dot 1 started to develop a persooa, 1 became someone called Roger Moore."

The someone called Roger Moore shot to the top of the

roster, starring in The Last star of his latest epic The Rape After Moore left her, she sued television series Ivanhoe. Inspired hy his musical wife, he tried his hand at composition and wrote several songs which she recorded with success, infilm Diane, "White Wings" (1956). Backed with another Squires/Moore song, "With All My Heart I Love You", this was issued by Polygon Records. Squires was backed by the popular broadcasting close-harmony group the Radio Revellers.

In 1956, Squires returned to England for one of her periodical variety appearances, and was invited to make her first (and only) film. An expensive musical in colour and cinemascope, Stars in Your Eyes was a showcase for the stars of the rapidly declining world of the music hall. Top of the bill was the ruhber-neck comedian Nat Jackley, with Pat Kirkwood ("Britain's Loveliest Legs"), the wisecracking ex-acrobat Bonar Colleano, the disc-jockey Jack Jackson, Freddie Printon, the stage's greatest "drunk", and little Jimmy, the Clitheroe Kid. Unhappily, the film failed at the box office and disappeared without trace, with the ultimate shame of never being shown on television. Squires sang four songs in it, one of which, "I Saw the Look in Your Eyes", she

recorded with Colleano. Back in the United States, she turned down the offer of replacing one of the famous Andrews Sisters, and found to her horror that her handsome young husband was making time, as they say, with more than ooe of the lovely young starlets appearing in his movies. In 1961. Moore's relationship with Luisa Mattioli, the Italian co-

Time I Saw Paris, Diane and the of the Sabines, proved too much. They parted. She returned for suggesting Moore was marhome to England and made a ried to Mattioli (they didn't record with Russ Conway, the marry until 1969); she sued the popular pianist. It was of her News of the World for publishing own composition: "Say It With a supposedly autobiographical cluding the title number for the Flowers". "I think it will be the account of her marriage. She song which she is most remembered by, it is so often played," said Conway. When in 1968 she paid a

> small company, President Records, to produce her first year, the year she and Moore finally divorced, she followed it up with "For Once in My Life", a cover of a Stevie Wonder hit. For more than 10 weeks, it appeared in the Top Thirty hit chart issued by the New Musical Express. It seemed as though, at the age of 54 and after a long break, she was back in favour with her public.

In 1970, with much attendant publicity, she used her own money to hire the London Palladium for the Sunday night of 6 December. Many scoffed, but every one of the 2,300 seats was sold. Her ovations that night were what they describe as standing. The unique event was recorded for posterity by President Records, and paved the way for further extraordinary one-woman concerts. In 1972 she paid £20,000 to stage her show at the Carnegie Hall in New York. In 1974, she was at special tribute concert to her late partner, Billy Reid. A second stardom was apparently

Squires had always been an enthusiastic litigant (so enthosiastic, indeed, that in 1987 she was barred from further legal actions as a "vexatious" litigant).

assured. But it was not to be.

him; she sued Kenneth More was taken to court for assaulting a police officer, and again over "payola" charges that she had bribed a BBC producer to play her records on radio.

Now living permanently in long-playing record, she called England once more, she saw her it Say It With Flowers. The next beautiful home at Bexley hurnt to the ground in 1977. She bought a new mansion beside the Thames at Bray, but was evicted; her mortgage was in arrears, and in 1986 she was declared bankrupt. (In 1992 she issued a writ against her former trustee-in-bankruptcy for £223,433,088,80 over the disappearance of her love letters from Roger Moore. It failed.) Finally, she moved to a friend's cottage in Yorkshire. But her indomitable courage and determination could not he

extinguished. In 1982 she took the stage at the opening of the Barbican Centre in London, In 1989. when she was 74 years old, she came back yet again. First it was in her Welsh homeland of Swansea, then another onewoman show at Brighton. She showed 'em all; she was still Dorothy Squires, the star of song. In the words of her last the Palladium once again for a single disc, recorded by President in 1970, she did it her way.

Denis Gifford

Edna May Squires (Dorothy Squires), singer: born Pontyberem, Carmarthenshire 25 March 1915; married 1953 Roger Moore (marriage dissolved 1969); died Llwynpia, Mid Glamorgan 14 April 1998.

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

DANE: Dr David Surrey. Died suddenly of home in Puttenham on 9 April. Fu-neral Service in Puttenham Parish Church at 3pm on Monday 20 April. Family flowers only. Donations to RSPB, Enquiries to Farnham Funeral Service, 01252 711444. Birthdays

Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, novelist, 58; Dame Jocelyn Barrow, former Deputy Chairman, Broad-casting Standards Council, 69; Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, BRC National Governor for Northern Ireland, 67; Gp Capt David Bolton, chairman, Macbeth Associates, 66; Sir Michael Bond, Professor of Psychological Medicine, Glasgow University, 62; Sir Adrian Cadbury, a director of the Bank of England, 69; Mr Tony Calvert, founder, the Terrence Hig-gins Trust, 42; Miss Claudia Cardinale, actress, 60; Mr Dave Edmunds,

rock guitarist, 54: Sir Richard Evans, former diplomat, 70; Miss Samantha Fox, singer and model, 32; Lord Geraint, former MP, 73; Mr Patrick Gillam, chairman, Stondard Chartered pic, 65; Lord Grey of Naunton, former Chancellor, Ulster Universitormer Chancellor, User Oniversity, 88; Mr John Grigg, historian, 75 Sir David Keene, High Court judge, 58; Sir Hugh Laddle, High Court judge, 52; Sir Neville Marriner, conductor, 74; Professor Charles Marsden, neurologist, 60; Sir Peter Menzies, former Chairman, Elec-tricity Council, S6; Mr David Rendel

Lincoln College, Oxford, 72; Sir Leslie Smith, former chairman, BOC Group, 79; Sir Robert Smith MP, 40; Dr Godfrey Stafford, former Master, St Cross College, Oxford, 78; Miss Emma Thompson, actress, 39; Miss Meriol Trevor, novelist and biogra-pher, 79; Dr Richard you Walarsely. pher, 79; Dr Richard von Weigssek-er, former president of Germany, 78; Sir Douglos Wass, chairman, Nomura International, 75; Mr Marty Wilde, rock singer, 59.

12 years younger than his wife.

Anniversaries Births: Nanak, founder of the Sikhs, 1469; William Augustus, Duke of

Cumberland, military commander, Cumberiand, minary commander, 172t; Sir James Cark Ross, polar explorer, 1800; Pierre-Etienne Théodore Rousseau, paimer, 1812; Benjamin Jowett, theologian and classical scholar, 1817; Henry James, novellst, 1843; Bessie Smith, blues trans 1801; Destination of the property of the proper singer, 1894. Deaths: Richard Mul-caster, schoolmaster and author, 1611; Lorenzo Lippi, poet and painter, 1664; Jeanne-Antoinette Poison-Le Normant d'Etoiles, Marquise de Pompadour, mistress of King Louis XV, 1764; Abraham Lincoln, 16th US president, from shot wounds 1865; Matthew Arnold, educationist and poet, 1888; John Singer Sargent,

portrait painter, 1925; Wallace Beery, actor, 1949; Jean-Paul Sartre, philosopher and writer, 1980; Arthur Lowe, actor, 1982; Tommy Cooper, comedian, 1984. On this day: Dr. Samuel Johnson published his Dictionary, 1755; the Bank of England issued the first five-round note. issued the first five-pound note, 1793; the White Star liner Thank sank on her maiden voyage after col-liding with an an iceberg, and 1,513 lives were lost, 1912; the Ukster Parliament was opened by the Governor of Northern Ireland, 1925; 95 Livexpool football fans were crushed to death in the stand at Hillsborough Stadium, Sheffield, 1989. Today is

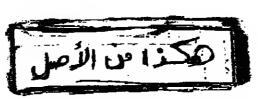
Easter Eve and the Feast Day of Saints Anastasia and Basilissa, St Hunna or Huva, St Patern or Padarn

Lectures

National Gallery: Christopher Bai er, "Penance (iii): Mary Magdalene in Baroque painting", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Deirdre Robson, "The Birth of the Modern Movement: design 1880 to 1930 (ii)", 2.30pm.

Tate Gallery: Kevin Driscoll, "Quotidian Delights: the paintings of Bonnard and Sickert", 1pm. **ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS** Changing of the Guard

-<u>.</u>.



INDEPENDENT

EDITOR: ROSIE BOYCOTT, EDITOR IN CHIEF: ANDREW MARR DEPUTY EDITOR: CHRIS BLACKHURST ADDRESS, I CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARE CONDON EIA SDL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435 THE INDIPERDENT OF THE INTERNET, WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.OK

Now drug plague hits the poor

THERE IS more heroin on the streets of Britain than there has ever been. The authorities seized 1.747kg of this hard drug (with a value of more than £145m) last year - a tonne more than in 1996. The trade is, apparently, largely organised by Turkish gangs that have "flooded" the market and reduced the price dramatically. Wraps of heroin can he bought, retail, for as little as $\mathfrak{L}2$. That is the obvious supply-push reason why use has increased. But what about demand pull? Why do people use it in the first place - and can the law do anything to help them stop?

The film Trainspotting showed us that heroin users can be, sometimes at least, affable, charming even. But, unlike most of us, they are addicted to a rush described by one character in the movie as "superior to a thousand orgasms". When even sex can't compete we had all better watch out. "Heroin chic" is one of the modern faces of fashion. Its meretricious charms are all around us. Of course there have been epidemics of heroin use before. A previous generation of film-makers exploited the cliches of underground drug use in the late 1960s, "Chasing the dragon" caught up with us in the 1970s. But there was something self-limiting about those previous outbreaks. Then, like myxomatosis, this was a disease in one British species that could not be transmitted to others; it reached a natural limit and declined until the next wave. In short, it was a hobby of the rich. Today heroin is cheap and attacks the deprived, those liable to have least incentive to "grow out" of the problem like college kids; it compounds social problems and feeds crime on run-down estates. It threatens larger sections of our neople more virulently than ever before.

Keith Hellawell, the Government's "drugs Tsar", says that 700 heroin addicts committed 70,000 crimes within three months to fund their habit. Researchers have claimed that the average heroin addict has to steal goods worth more than £43,000 each year to fund a modest daily habit. We are all in favour of being tough on those convicted of such offences. But we need idso to understand where the cause lies.

Yesterday in this newspaper Oliver James argued persuasively about why violent crime soured in the years after 1987. Violence is caused by being male, young and from a low-income family. So is drug abuse. In 1979, 20 per cent of boys were raised in low-income families. By 1981 this had risen in 33 per cent and has stayed there ever since. Some of Thatcher's children have grown up to be violent and some have grown up to be addicts.

These arguments hold for all hard drugs, and we see no case for relaxing the law, thereby admitting defeat; and a very good case for the Govemment to tackle urban deprivation ever more passionately.

The same arguments do not apply to all soft drugs, particularly cannabis. It would be foolish to pretend that cannabis presents the same kind of threat to people that cocaine and heroin do. We find it very odd that cunnahis is classed in the same way as heroin. It is silly for MPs - of all people - to abdicate their responsibilities and he frightened of joining in the debate about drugs. But it does not follow that the time has come to decriminalise cannahis.

Why not? Ahove all, because the evidence is not clear or decisive. If it is the case that its heavy and sustained use is, on balance, not harmful, then no reasonable person would do other than set the people free and concentrate on licensing and regulatory questions. However, that weight of evidence does not yet exist; we suspect that the evidence will accumulate in the other direction. Comparisons with legal drugs, such as alcohol and tobacco. don't seem persuasive to us; alcohol saturates our culture, in a way that cannahis and herein do not. If tobacco was first discovered this week deep in some rainforest, and we quickly discovered how dangerous it is, would we allow it to be legally available? Is the wider availability of narcotics really a social good? And isn't the law, in frowning on cannahis without heing fiercely implemented, more like decent fudge than cynical hypocrisy?

These remarks may startle some readers who have watched and supported and marched with the campaign to decriminalise cannabis run hy the Independent on Sunday. We admire its vigour and respect its integrity. We share its desire for a wider debate. For this newspaper, though, the onus rests with those who favour change and that case remains to be proved.

Labouring to be cool

NEW LABOUR'S Cool Britannia is wilting. Rarely a week now passes without some prominent figure heaping public scorn on the concept. This week, Ben Elton, a stalwart Labour supporter, has attacked the Government's plan | sermon, as I understand it, was about to rebrand Britain as "gruesome", adding: "Leaders should never try to look; the possible beginning of real peace cool. That's for dictators... The country is collapsing under a pile of labels."

Mr Elton is the doven of left-wing, fashionable comedians. His decision to go public with a critique of Cool Britannia is a clear sign that it is destined for the dusthin of rhetorical history. The whole business is turning into the Government's biggest PR disaster so far.

The prime ministerial image consultants overplayed their hand by trying to hijack the concept of Cool in the first place. Real cool means not trying too hard and not coring what people think of you. Politicians, by definition, try hard and care passionately what we think of them. They can never achieve the devil-may-care insonciative of people like Wayne Hemingway, the designer, who condemned Tony Blair in this paper as "old at heart".

Really savvy pop figures, like Jarvis Cocker of Pulp and Damon Albarn. | celebrate the peace process in Ireland, the philosopher king behind Blor, avoided being co-opted into the rebranding process. They refused invitations to No 10 parties. Noel Gallagher rashly accepted - a decision which his spin-doctors must have hitterly regretted. Oasis's once unassailable popularity has plummeted in the charts.

Once in power, the link between pop and politics frays. "What's so great | joy very little support among the maabout being cool anyway?" asks Mr Elton, "Uncool people never hum any- i jority of gay men and women in this body." In truth, the British are ambivalent about whole idea. They admire country. Few gay people agreed with politicians, like Ken Clarke. John Present and Clare Short, who are hap-their previous actions of fouting by to be themselves. New Labour should know its limits. Politicians can attempting to expose men who chose be admired or disliked, loved or loathed. What they can never be is cool. I to keep their sexuality private,



Tatchell and the Church

I AM a Christian and an open and well-adjusted gay man. I have taken part in many protests to highlight inustices and to combat the homophobic prejudice and discrimination that still pervades our society. I feel that Peter Tatchell's self-publicising stunt, disrupting the Archhishop of Canterbury's Easter sermon, was contemptible.

The majority of organised religious faiths have, over the centuries, caused much suffering to homosexuals. The teachings of Christ have been twisted by bigots to be used as an armoury of hatred against us. I firmly believe however, that this is changing; albeit slowly. In both Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, a vast number of hishops, priests and their congregations show a great amount of understanding and tolerance towards homosexuality.

There is still much bigotry and the recognition of same-sex unions the argument. Certainly demonstra- confront issues such as these. tions against prejudice within our GEOFF HENNESSY churches must continue, but at the Isleworth, Middlesex right time and place.

Easter Sunday is the most revered lestival in our calendar. Dr Carey's in Northern Ireland. He was not making any statements about gay clergy or same-sex unions. Tatchell and his supporters' timing of their demonstration was insulting and emharrassing to me as a gay man irrespective of my religious beliefs. It was also insulting to those present who wished to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of a great fighter against social injustice, those who wished to and to those who quietly work within the church to change attitudes towards homosexuality.

Tatcheil and OutRage! actually en-

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Jesus had a cross to bear, which he did in silent suffering. Tatchell loudly bears chips on both shoulders. More harm is done to the struggle for recognition of gay rights in this country by this man than any number of ill-informed religious higots. ANDY OAKER Torquay, Devon

AS A former churchgoer, I really must applaud Peter Tatchell for confronting the Archhishop of Cant on Sunday. For far too long the Church leadership has forgotten the prime commandment to love thy neighbour, and now finds itself terminally entrenched in outmoded, denates shall still rage. The issues of small-minded, diberal attitudes the ordination of openly gay priests—which died elsewhere in the 1950s. and the church's (and state's) lack of Regretfully, I believe that the current stalemate can be broken only by forcarouse great passion on both sides of line Dr Carcy and his colleagues to

Ulster's opportunity

AS BEFORE, Unionist opponents of the Northern Ireland peace deal are quoted as saying they are British and want to stay British. Yet if you look around Europe, the qualities the British are known for are tolerance, the ability to laugh at themselves, an acute sense of irony, willingness to accept and implement negotiated agreements and above all, a commitment to democratic process. Do the Unionists recognise and cherish these qualities in themselves and will they work to sustain them as we try to on the "mainland"?

Undoubtedly, on a narrow interpretation, the Unionists have most to lose from the agreement as their 60-year stalemated hegemony departs. But the opportunity they and all Ulster are being offered is the chance to stop fighting over pieces of the same historic cake and to co-

er cake, which, thanks to the EU, US, through a process of Chinese whis-UK and peace itself can provide everyone with more: more jobs. more prosperity, more infrastructure, more future. Why settle for less wheo you can bave more?

NICK RUSSELL London, NW5

Electronic spies

I'M AFRAID your correspondent in Paris, John Lichfield, has been rather led astray by the report in France's answer to the Daily Mail, Le Figaro ("Britain accused of spying on its EU neighbours", 11 April).

The so-called leaked report, eotitled Tab Assessment of the Jechcologies of Political Control", was heralded Strategic Defence Review. to Greenwich. This is in addition commissioned about two years ago by the European Parliament's Civil Libcrties and Internal Affairs Committee. In one hundred pages it looks at structured to enable them to meet the problems of the export from the European Union of weapons of tor-morrow's world - not the Cold War ture, at the use by the Chinese. among others, of neutral technologies such as traffic management systems to monitor dissidents in Tiananmen Square and at global electronic surveillance. The last topic constitutes a truly strategic review of conventional

less than 5 per cent of the report. John Lichfield's description of the system is essentially correct. However the report is hardly new. It was completed in April 1997 and presented to the Parliament's Scientific and Technological Opions Assessment Group, of which I am a member, in December and to the Civil Liberties Committee in January. That Com- of British interests outside Europe? mittee voted for a more detailed follow-up report. This is in the process of being commissioned.

the illegiumate use for commercial conferences in New York and Genepurposes of some of the collateral information collected by the United. nuclear weapons? States. It does not even claim the same is true of the United Kingdom, let alone prove it. Why this rogue stooperate in sharing out a much larg- ry should surface again after going London N7

pers seems more a reflection on internal battles for influence within the EU than any real concern for Britain's historical Atlantic rela-

GLYN FORD MEP (Greater Manchester East, Lab) Mossley, Lancushire

No review of Trident

NEITHER Sir James Eberle's opeo letter to the Secretary of State for Defence (Comment, 8 April) nor George Robertson's reply (Letters. 9 April) made any meotion of the ter and Southampton, or Lecprospective role for nuclear weapons tollowing the release of the much-

It is simply illogical to state that the review has been foreign policyled and that "our forces must be the challenges of today's and toworld of yesterday", having ringfenced Trident as our "strategic deterrent for the foreseeable future." From my reading of the present

situation it does look as if this has been force capability matched to the reality of international stability, unlike "Options for Change" and "Front Line First" under the previous administration. Why then has George Robertsoo been so ready to mouth Malcolm Rifkind's words about "threatening rogue states with substrategic nuclear weapons in defence

And why has this government been just as obstructive as it oredecessor over attempts to get discus-It does contain allegations as to sions started at international va on the worldwide elimination of DAVE KNIGHT

Chair, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

By river to the Do

I AM GLAD a supremo appointed to ensure that able to visit the Millenr safely and without un hope he realises that through central Lond cs Greenwich. Your April) makes no me. Thames

The river is crosse railway bridges. Two o become relevant to port. One is used by lim fic between Clapham J the main line to B. Crewe and the North. is used by Thameslin from the Midland Main south coast. Were bu bridges given rail and riv change facilities, and used: between such places as M. Brighton, the river would long way to solving using the Thames as a route tween ceotral London and Gree

Using the river in this wa would enable visitors from the Midlands and the North of England to arrive at the Dome without using existing tube and hus services. The river is an enjoyable and relaxing experience in its own right. The Millennium experience may well become the means for making the Thames, once again, a major traffic artery. Fr DONALD BIRD

Borth-y-Gest, Gwynedd

Easter excess

TO AMERICANS, Easter Monday is simply "the day after Easter", just as Boxing Day is "the day after Christmas". It's something I could happily live with, in return for an extended summer break (leading article, 13 April; letter, 14 April). Shrinking the Easter weekend may not prevent its transformation into the People's Chocolate Holiday, but it should certainly improve the TV schedules. NICK SWEENEY Oxford

On board this Titanic the only ice is in the cocktails



so much in the news. I am amazed that nobody has bothered to revive the only play. which Noel Coward ever set aboard the Titanic. It is, of course, the comedy Brief Tables. Here, to remind you, is a brief extract from this forgotten work by the Master.

The scene is the first-class deck of the "Titanie". Two deck chairs are occurred by Maxim and Chlor, a married couple. Maxim: Chloc? Chioe: Yes, darling? Maxim: Are you warm enough?

Chloe: Of course. Why do you ask? Maxim: I feel I ought to look after you. That is what a husband should do. Chloe: Yes, that is true. On the other hand. my hushand is not here.

Maxim: Chloe! Must you keep reminding me that you were married before? In any case. your first hushand is dead now.

WITH Noel Coward and the Titanic both Chlor Well, we don't know that for sure. All we know is that Albert went off on a polar expedition to look for magnetic North and never came back. He is presumed dead. That is not the same thing as being dead.

Maxim: Very nearly. The sun is presumed to be rising again tomorrow. I think that is the same thing as actually rising tomorrow. In any case, why on earth did Albert want to go looking for magnetic North?

Chioe: Because it was there and because nobody had ever seen it. Maxim: One might as well go looking for

Huddersfield. One knows it is there, but that is no reason. Chioe: Many people have seen Huddersfield. Maxim: Not anyone one knows, thank God.

honeymoon? Maxim: I don't know. This is only my second honeymoon, after all. Perhaps one mellows after the third or fourth.

Chloe: Are you always this brittle on your

Chlor: Do you intend to be married to other people after me? Maxim: That depends oo whether you in-

tend to wrap up warmly or not. I am going

to our cabin to get a garment which will stop you catching your death of cold. Chioe: Don't be long, dear. Maxim leaves. Another man enters and sits in a racant deck chair on the other side of Chloe.

Man: Is this deck chair taken? Chloe: If he were not dead, I would say that that was the voice of my late husbaod, Al-

Man: Chloe! Chloe: Albert! ... No, it is not taken. Do sit

Albert: Is that all you have to say to me? After all these years? "Do sit down"? Chioe: I rather thought it was up to you to

say something. You are presumed dead. You might have got in touch to say you were alive. Albert: There are not many telegraph offices

or post boxes at the North Pole. Chioe: I suppose so ... Did you find magnetic North? Albert: Yes. At least, I think so. My compass

had a small nervous breakdown and didn't know where to point, so I assumed I had reached magnetic North. In the distance the ship's band starts playing.

Chloe: And bow was the North Pole? Albert: Very potent. He listens to the music for a moment. The band is playing out of tune. How flat cheap music is ... Maxim comes back with a warm wrap.

Maxim: Here it is. Put it on, dear. There is a definite chill in the air. Albert: You are right. I cao smell ice. I am never wrong about that.

Maxim: Chloc, have you been talking to strangers while I was away! Chlor: No, dear. This is no stranger. This is

Albert, the other husband about whom I have often spoken. Albert, this is Maxim, to whom More of this tomorrow, I fear.

I am now married. Maxim: Albert? So you are not as dead as

you are presumed? Albert: No. On the other hand, you are not

as married as you presumed you were. Maxim: You may be right about that, A slight pause. What do you mean about being able to smell ice?

Albert: If I did oot know better, I would say there was an iceberg in the offing. We polar explorers acquire a very keen sense of smell. Maxim: I can understand that. In the long polar evenings there cannot be much else to do except stand and sniff. Polar bears seem to spend most of their time wrinkling their noses.

Chloe: Maxim, are you making fun of Albert? Maxim: 1? Make fun of the only other person whose marriage proposal you have taken seriously? Heaven forfeod!



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Into the final furlong and it's Blair and Ahern neck and neck



RORY BREMNER'S DIARY

ACH Spring hrings new promise.

For me, this year, anticipation of the dericket season to come - packed houses at Lord's, the tents at Canterbury I can promise, are on vintage form. during cricket week, me getting out cheaply to a straight one from Bill Giles - is joined by a new enthusiasm: racing. Having started out last year as an apprentice owner to Lady Herries, I can now look forward to each landmark in the racing calendar with new excitement.

Forgive me if you are a racing fan, hut if you're not, let me tell you what the excitement is about. The Derby starts here. For this very week, out of the yards of the great trainers - Henry Cecil, Michael Stoute, John Dunlop - will emerge the three-yearold colts who will make history, know triumph or disaster, make fortunes or break hearts before the year is out.

Just have a quick look in the paper when the runners are announced for the Craven Stakes at Newmarket on Thursday and the Greenham at Newbury on Saturday; mark the names, catch the races if youcan; watch the great horses go on to the Guineas at Newmarket next month - the classic Derby trial. You may still end up losing money on Derby Day, but you'll at. least know what the fuss is about. And the top horses - Xaar, Daggers Drawn, whatever - will be like old friends to you and the bank manager.

One of the great evenings of my fledgling racing life took place in a restaurant in Cape Town in January. Having tried to impress Lester Pigott with a nathetic trick involving a one-rand coin (which Lester immediately pocketed, I might add), I asked him to talk me through the Derby course. It divides into three, he said - climb, turn steeply downbill, straight - and he was usually fifth coming into the final

The rest of the detail has faded, along. with whatever wine was drunk that evening, but the man remains a legend, not least for the sublime moment when the Inland Revenue realised that his cheque to clear all his outstanding tax liabilities was drawn on an account they knew nothing about.

ometimes, I daren't sneeze in the street in case an eager researcher spots me and asks if I can take part in a scries/celebrity test/fund-raising evening . for hav-fever sufferers. Not that it's something to be sniffed at. Indeed, the revelation in an interview that I go to the opera has led to a couple of really enjoyable projects, and, recently, to a Gala meeting/ demo featuring artists from the Royal Opera and English National Opera. I went

along to listen and to agree with anything that the great Dr Jonathan Miller might say. I wasn't disappointed. He likened the feared merger of the two opera companies to a crass decision to combine Euston station, north of the Thames, with Waterloo, south of the river. "We'll cross that bridge when we come to it."

To refuse adequate subsidy to opera on the grounds of its perceived élitism is simply lazy thinking. If opera is élitist, it is be-cause it now has to charge such high prices that only the rich can afford it. Better funding, and therefore lower prices, would make the opera once again accessible instead of exclusive: a People's Opera, in fact. For, without opera you could not enjoy the ultimate combination of drama, music and technical virtuosity; without opera you could not market a football tournament in Italy, and without opera you prohably wouldn't be able to advertise the new Vauxhall Vectra 2.3i.

this week, we've heen grappling with the blancmange that is New Labour for a programme to mark the end of its first year. John Bird and John Fortune,

I must say, I share Ben Elton's reservations about "Cool Britannia". It was always an odd concept; the idea that John Major thought of in first even odder. It simply doesn't help that Tony Blair looks like a primary-school teacher and John Prescott dances like your dad. I almost prefer the court of King Gordon, where last week such cool icons as George Robertson and Craig Brown, the Scottish football coach men who know a meat pie when they see one - were greeted at No 11 by the Chancellor saying: "Yon'll have had your tea?" Move over Britannia, make way for "Cooledonia", where the pizzas are deepfried. Im Bru is the drink of choice and Caffe Latte still runs the corner shop.

But the achievement in Ireland last week does permit the Government a rekindled spirit of euphoria before we return to the more important matters of sleaze and wallpaper and the Cooks, as we must now learn to call them.

Although you could argue that none of this would have been possible without the initial courageous efforts of John Major, and that Ireland's economic growth (apparently now greater year-on-year than Malaysia and China's put together at their peak) make a deal imperative, I think you'd have to be very dull of soul not to be encouraged at what has been achieved. There are many other areas where the Government can be questioned, ridiculed and satirised, but Northern Ireland isn't one of them.

To look only for the downside, the cynical angle, whatever the issue, would be to believe in nothing at all. The Good Friday agreement is (like so much of Blair's agencase, a triumph of courage over bigotry and despair. Of the future over the past, we must hope - if only so we may he spared the sight of Ian Paisley yelling: "The Future's Bright. The Future's Orange." The fear is, he may yet trade that for: "Do not go gentle into that good night/Rage, rage against the dying of the light."

ern is being as feted in Ireland as Blair is here. At least our man didn't have to re-.turn with a picture saying: "I went to Stormont and all I got was this lousy "Taoiseach." The Irish themselves have one of those great expressions for Ahern, as one of his countrymen told me last week: "Sure, he's one of those people, if you didn't know who he was, you wouldn't know who he was..." They do now.

I don't know if Irish Premier Bertie Ah-

Scotland's Parliament must deliver before demanding more power



MARR ON REMAKING BRITAIN

A STORM is quietly hrewing in the north. Though Belfast continues to be the immediate focus of Labour's political remaking of the UK, Scottish polities is also starting to rumble. Last weekend, a year ahead of the first elections for the Edinburgh Parliament, the latest in a run of had polls for the Govcrament suggested the Scottish Nationalists could triumph.

Well, it was just another poll as the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, was quickly briefing, in support of his friend and close colleague Donald Dewar. The Scottish Labour Party is a little rattled, nevertheless. Now that the new parliament is certain to he established, minds are turning, anxiously or gleefully, to the new politics that may crash and thunder around it.

Will it lead to separation? Or if it doesn't, will it lead to a southern hacklash and, therefore, a fall in Scottish public spending - so that voters turn from its failed promises with a disappointed shrug? Is Scotland facing a nationalist hang or a post-political whimper?

The bang-merchants of the SNP have been eyeing the limited powers of the Scottish Parframent's powers, and rubbing their hands - there's plenty of scope for trouble there. And at the other end of the country, possible runners for the London mayor race, notably this paper's columnist Trevor Phillips, have been raising the heat on Scottish public spending, arguing that up to £2bn of it must "come back" to the UK capital.

competitive populism? Optimists, and I'm one, have some questions to answer. It is certainly true that the Edinburgh Parliament will lack authority over a wide and occasionally baffling list of issues. Suppose, as the EU evolves, the Scottish Parliament wishes to create special links with Catalonia, or Denmark? Under the legislation, it can't. Almost all international dealing is reserved for Westminster.

Suppose, after an impassioned dehate about the drugs problem in the estates of the Scottish central belt, it wanted to relax the cannabis laws? It almost equally impressive list of



Scotland wouldn't have the powers to make another Dolly

isn't allowed to - drugs law stays

south. Nor could it have gone

further on a firearms han after

Dunhlane than the Commons

did. It could speak and vote, hut

Trident base - hut, of course, it

cannot get into anti-nuclear

stuff. They also support a fish-

ing fleet struggling for survival

and much of the offshore oil in-

dustry, but health and safety is-

sues on boats and rigs will be

outside Edinburgh's control.

BBC Scotland is developing a

distinctive profile, but it remains

a Westminster-only matter, as

does the regulation of hmad-

casting in Scotland generally.

(Newspapers, however, can be

an Edinhurgh girl; but the Ed-

inhurgh Parliament isn't al-

touching human genetics, xeno-

transplantation or scientific

procedures on live animals.

Scotland thinks of itself as a

more egalitarian and radical

society than England but its par-

liament cannot change laws on

trade unions, equal opportuni-

ties or discrimination. And if,

on the other hand, a Scot is wor-

thy of some honour, that na-

tion's parliament cannot award

one - the "award of dignities

and titles of honour" is, like the

rest of my list, reserved to

the Scotland Bill.

Westminster in schedule 5 of

I could have produced an

Dolly the Sheep is famously

affected by the new MSPs.)

Its waters include the Fasiane

it couldn't act.

things the new Parliament can get involved in - health, schools,

planning, tourism, trade promotion, food standards, the environment, forestry, drink licensing, sport and the arts among them, But for nationalists, it will be the restrictions, not the freedoms, that are the use-

universities, prisons, housing,

For nationalists the restrictions, not freedoms, will be the useful ammunition

many currently politically sensitive issues (rights, trude unions, defence, broadcasting) are to be kept for Westminster. it is not hard to envisage them using it.

The first years of the new body's lifetime - from 1999 to. say, the second election in 2002 - will be rocky. Scottish voters will use the SNP as a handy weapon to beat Lahour with. particularly since Labour are in power down south.

There will be challenges to the Parliament's powers hy a strong SNP group and pethaps some redrawing of the boundaries. Just as with the

Commons, some local idiots will have been elected and will gain disproportionate publicity.

The Scottish Labour Party. whose candidates are already heing asked to sign a "thus far and no further" loyalty pledge on the new Parliament's powers, will nevertheless argue about whether they should engage in a patriotic competition with the SNP.

It will require all of the skills of cohinet heavyweights above all Gordon Brown, who has a formidable personal power base in Scotland - to dissuade them. The Scottish media will be ungrateful and unfriendly. The Duily Record and Sunday Mail are in the hands of a talented young Englishman of right-wing views. The Scotsman, traditionally a devolutionist paper, is now being Nationalism working hand-in-

hand against Labour.

At the same time, in England, an alternative and ill-considered populism will be piling pressure on Scottish expenditure. Raucous calls 10 rein in the Scots and cut their cash will ccho from Carlisle to Dover even though England gains hugely from the Union, too.

Why, you may ask, is Tony

Blair putting up with all this? He is, in so many respects, a cautious politician, opposed to change for the sake of change and contemptuous of chattering-class agendas.

Part of the answer, of course, is that the Scottish Labout Party and much of civic society demanded devolution and was too powerful to resist. particularly after the trauma of its leader's sudden death. Had Blair tried a U-turn then he would have found that Hamlet's father had nothing on the Ghost of John Smith.

More important, though, is that Blair understood that the old order couldn't stand. Scottish voters plumped heavily for new Parliament. Nationalism would have become more dangerous with a continued London veto than it now is.

But Blair is also, I hope, a long-termist - or at least a medium-termist. Political reform is a profound thing, and takes time to root. Scottish politics needs to grow up and away from London-bashing: it needs the mistakes, rows and emharrassments to come as the first parliament struggles through a difficult adolescence and comes to terms with real responsibility.

Then, the second lot of elections will produce hetter candidates and wiser ideas than the first. Faced with the realities of choosing a separate Scottish defence force or a social security system, and of refusing the British subsidy, Scottish voters are unlikely to choose independence. They are going to become more informed and alert about educational and health questions, and shrewdet about the financial promises of Scottish

The SNP is going to find that voters want to see the Edinhurgh Parliament imptoving their country, before they want it to be still stronger. Even with as strong a leader as Alex Salmond, they will hecome Scotland's SDLP, working within a UK ftamework, not Scotland's Sinn Fein.

Like so much Easter weather, the storm from the north is samething to be gone ugh. It is an unav part of the remaking of British politics that we need - partly because it will reintroduce uncertainty, passion and a little danger into what had become a cynical and electly democracy. On that conviction rest Labour's credentials as a party of political reform. Gladstone, never one to avoid a passing squall, would have understood.

Revolution can make the rising sun shine



HAMISH **MCRAE** ON JAPAN'S **FINANCIAL FUTURE**

IS JAPAN on the edge of a rev- and a cosy relationship beolution? It is a strange thought for the most conservative of the large industrial nations. But bear with me.

Today the Group of Seven finance ministers meet in Washington for a twice-yearly meeting at the IMF to talk about the state of the world economy. Their main preoccupation will be the fact that the second largest of the countries there -Japan - is heading back into recession, and there will be pressure on the Japanese authorities to "do more", whatever that means, to try and stop this. The Japanese, for their part, will say that they have done enough. So there will be

The reaction of many people to this will be "so what?" Politicians always seem to be having rows, and in any case the economic stagnation in Japan does not seem to have affected either North America or Europe. Of the other six members of the G7, the US, Canada and the UK have continued to hound onwards, while Germany, France and Italy are this year, at last, starting to generate some growth.

Some people may go further and relish the fact that the Japanese model which we were told we had to emulate - with its high personal savings, heavy investment in stale-financed infrastructural projects, heavily controlled financial markets.

tween banks and industry does not seem to be so wonderful after all.

That response is understandable, but it is wrong. It is wrong for three reasons. For a start the Japanese economy is still on many measures the second largest in the world after the .US (on some, it is the third, after China too) and Japan is the world's largest creditor nation. Instability there is a threat to the rest of us, even of that threat at present has yet to manifest itself.

It is wrong too because what has gone wrong in Japan could happen elsewhere in the developed world in the not-toodistant future. Japan is experiencing the depressing effects of deflation - a period of falling prices - from which it has been unable to escape."

Outsiders have told Japan to cut interest rates, and Japan has done that Since December 1995 the Japanese discount rate has been half a per cent. Yes, half of one per cent. But that has done nothing to boost the economy. I suppose they could cut it to a quarter of one per cent, or an eighth, but I don't think anyone would expect that to have any effect.

If monetary policy no longer works, what about fiscal policy? Outsiders are now telling Japan to boost tlemand by running a bigger government deficit. Ex- whole world economy in a few pect some more of this in years' time. But as the world

does not make much sense either. The Japanese have had a whole string of fiscal packages in the last six months - I have counted six and I may have missed one - but nothing has happened. The fiscal deficit is now about six per cent of GDP, which is higher than it was in the UK at the bottom of the last recession. If a deficit of six per cent of GDP does not work, why should anyone believe that one of seven, eight or nine per cent would? The Japanese government can cut taxes, but most Japanese people will simply save the money they get

back, and they will save it be-

cause they are terrified of the

That response may seem a million miles from the robust attitude of British or American families: when we feel a bit richer we go out and spend the dosh. But were the uncertainty evident in Japan to be transferred here, we would become cautious too. Just suppose that early 1990s recession had gone on for another couple of years. House prices had continued to fall; unemployment had continued to mount. Do you think a few tax cuts would have encouraged us to go out and buy BMWs? No, we would have

No. I am not saying that this is what will happen to the

saved the money too.

Washington today. But that moves from one of inflation to one of deflation, as I think it will over the next 25 years, there is a danger that the rest of us may catch the Japanese disease. It is, to put it at its lowest, a clear possibility, and for that reason alone we should concern ourselves with what is happening

There is a third reason why Japan matters: something is stirring there which may herald a revolution analogous to the Thatcher revolution here.

To understand this, look at the parallel with the UK in the middle 1970s. Britain had been run by consensus since the war. with ideas dominated by, to put it pejoratively, a wet liberal, corporatist elite. That elite was overthrown. Japan has been run since the middle 1950s by a similar couseasus. Their model is both rather different and seems to have worked rather better than nurs, but it too has hit the buffers.

Now, as in Britain in the 1970s, a group of mostly young revolutionaries is making its views felt, calling for the same sort of market-driven changes that took place in the UK. Their argument is that neither fiscal nor monetary policy will revive the economy but structural reforms will: getting rid of unnecessary regulation, freeing financial markets, stopping the often corrupt government con-

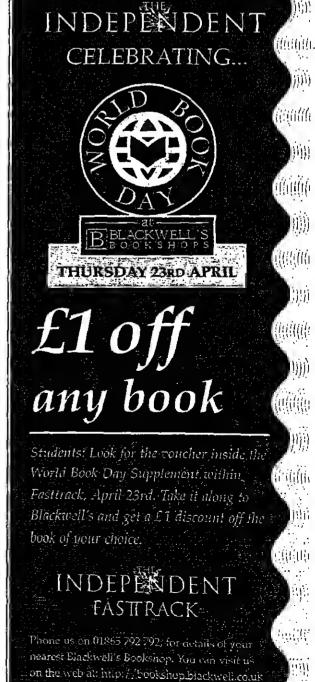
tracts, cutting taxes, and so on. Meanwhile the mainstream

politicians - like the Callaghan government - are sitting like raphits in the headlights of a ear, afraid to move until they are absolutely forced to do so. Much of the rest of the elite is frightened too, either asserting that all is well and keeping heads down, or when directly fingered, hursting into tears on television and resigning.

The revolutionaries do not yet have critical mass. Only occasionally does a senior figure in the business world attack the mainstream politicians, as did the head of Sony two weeks ago, and political support for reform is at best patchy, and at worst non-existent. But the country is a-stirring, and the deeper the recession this year the greater the pressure for change.

There is a further lesson here for us. It is that no economic model, however successful it appears, will carry on delivering the goods. The way we earn our livings, the jobs we do, the way companies are organised, the way government organises its own activities, all are in constant flux and will continue to be in flux. The pace will increase.

So we have to keep examining how we organise our economy and pontlering how we might do it better. That message is as important for us here, now we have out tails up, as it is for the Japanese, now they have their tails down.



BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR.

Deutsche Bank under fire from Gazprom

DEUTSCHE BANK, the German financial gians, has become embroiled in an embarrassing confrontation with one of its main clients. Guzprom, the world's largest gas company, said vesterday it had "serious concerns" about securities al-

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell (DMG).

The Russian gas company said it was concerned that DMG could he violating tough government rules on foreign ownership of Gazprom

Last May, the Russian government tightened up the laws on foreign own-

one in Russia, and one abroad.

The company said it had requested "all relevant documents" from DMG, and was also seeking the advice of the Federal Commission on

DMG has denied allegations contained in a statement by Gazprom, effective way of owning Gazprom

rivative securities based on Gazprom shares".

However, although it may not be issuing new derivative securities based on Gazprom shares, DMG does trade existing derivative securities. Those offer DMG customers a cost-

Deutsche's investment banking arm, maintain two markets for its shares suing nor is planning to issue any desuch, they are understood to be fully compatible with Russian law.

> leading a \$200m syndicated loan for the Gazprom.

Some sector watchers were yesrail Deutsche's relationship with company's confidence in the banks.

legedly being offered for sale by ership in an attempt to help Gazprom saying the bank "is not currently is- shares and were issued two years ago. Gazprom. Others, however, were to "politicking" within the industry.

Gazprom has recently tried out Deutsche Bank is currently co- several of the large US investment houses. Last year, it unceremoniously dropped Goldman Sachs, the US bank, and ABN Amro of Holland, afterday predicting the row could de- ter press leaks reportedly shook the

Japan faces new attack

Economics Editor

A CLASH is expected today between Japanese and other Group of Seven finance ministers and central bankers over whether Japan has done enough

to tackle its economic problems. The other G7 members do not consider the ¥4 trillion (£20bn) in one-off-tax cuts, announced last week, a good enough response to their earlier attack on the inadequacy of attempts by the Japanese gov-

ernment to boost the economy. Today's meeting is likely to flat be even more discordant than the last G7 meeting in February. Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, said yesterday: "What's absolutely critical is that Japan get back on a track of strong domestic demandress led growth, not only for itself.

but for the rest of the world." Bnt Hikaru Matsunaga, Japan's finance minister, rejected outright such concerns about the economy's prospects. It was not clear until part way through the day yesterday that he would even attend today's meeting in Washington. "I find it difficult to understand the concerns of the IMF [International Monetary Fund over the stability of the Japanese financial system." Mr Matsuna-

eced

ga said. He predicted growth could hit the government's 1.9 per cent target this year - well above both the zero growth forecast by the IMF earlier this week and the fall in GDP forecast by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development last week. Most analysts in the financial

markets share the gloomy view. boost as enough to turn the economy around but the G7 and the markets do not," said Ger- . ard Lyons at DKB in London.

The dollar was weaker against the yen and European currencies in cautious trading vesterday ahead of the meeting.

The finance ministers and bankers meeting in Washington this week are also concerned about the dangers of more general currency instability in the run-up to the launch of the euro next January. The G7 will discuss the year 2000 computer problem, too, and whether this might trigger instability in the

financial markets. In addition, the G7 and IMF will have to address widespread criticisms of the Fund's reaction to the Asian crisis. Although South-east Asian markets have stabilised, the IMF is still under attack for having reacted too slowly and for having imposed too severe an austerity package on the afflicted countries.

One suggestion to be discussed is for the IMF to be given powers to force members to comply with higher standards for their financial and banking systems, as weaknesses bere are thought to bave made a hig contribution to the Asian crisis. In addition, the Code for Fiscal Transparency, suggested by Gordon Brown last September. is likely to be approved.

Bank shares take off after mega-mergers

By David Usborne in Liew York and Lea Paterson

BANKING shares on both sides of the Atlantic yesterday headed for new heights as investors began to speculate on which other banks were likely to join forces in the wake of Monday's mega-mergers in the industry.

On this side of the Atlantic, investors' targets included Lloyds TSB and Standard Chartered in the UK, Dresdner Bank in Germany and Credit Suisse. in Switzerland, despite warnings from analysts that Europe was unlikely to see mergers on the scale of those in the US.

A buoyant UK banking sector helped lift the FTSE 100 index by 45 points to a record high of 6,150.5 at one point yesterday. However, by the close of trading. profit-taking had knocked the FTSE back to 6.104.1, down 1.4 points on the day.

Back in the US, although most of the bank stock gains were posted on Monday in the immediate wash of merger announcements, some shares continued to climb yesterday. Most notable among them was Minneapolis- results. First-quarter earnings based KeyCorp, whose shares came in ahead of estimates, with rose \$3.1875 to \$43.5625 by the middle of the day.

Unlike many of their European colleagues, analysts in the sharply. US were agreed that Monday's double cannon shot, with mergbetween First Chicago NBD and ther consolidation in the sector. Fargo. While the former has a

By Lea Paterson

BUSINESS is booming in the

Square Mile with the City en-

joying a sharp upturn in activi-

ty over the last three months.

according to the a survey by the

Confederation of British In-

dustry (CBI) in conjunction

with Cooper & Lybrand, the ac-

countants. The rise in volumes

of work has also led to a short-

companies said business

volumes had increased over

the last quarter, the highest per-

centage since June last year.

This upturn has put a smile on

the faces of City bankers, with

the survey showing confidence

levels rising for the first time

A balance of 37 per cent of

age of skilled staff.

since last summer.

end of the whole consolidation of the banking industry," said Hugh Johnson, chief investment officer at First Albany in New York. "It's clearly being driven by the need for every hank, national and interna-

tional, to position itself." Highlighting the stellar forlunes of most in the industry thanks to low interest rates and soaring stock markets, First Union, which like NationsBank is based in Charlotte, North Carolina, reported strongerthan-expected results yesterday. It is widely considered to he under pressure to find a new partner to broaden its financial hase and its geographic coverage.

Brokerage firms also unveiled spectacular earnings vesterday. Announcing first-quarter figures, Merrill Lynch, Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette, and Paine-Webber all beat Wall Street estimates by comfortable margins, Merrill Lynch posted record revenues for the quarter of

However JP Morgan, another potential merger candidate, vesterday unveiled mixed underlying net income up 35 per cent. But restructuring charges meant overall

Favourite candidates for the next US hanking merger iners unnounced between Bank- cluded KeyCorp and US Ban-America and Nationsbank and corp., although a popular alternative scenario put US Banc One Corp. should spur fur- Bancorp in the arms of Wells

Rising workloads leave City

firms feeling more positive

"It's almost like Asia didn't

The turnaround in prospects

happen". David Sayer, a part-

ner in Cooper & Lybrand's

financial services division, said

has intensified competition for

professional staff, especially in

the fund management industry.

where 71 per cent expressed

concern about skill shortages.

survey are markedly different

from those announced three

months ago. In January, a bal-

ance of just 5 per cent of com-

panies reported an increase in

business volumes, and a balance

of 9 per cent of companies said

they were negative about the

business outlook. In yesterday's

survey, a balance of 18 per

cent said they were positive

about the husiness outlook.

The results of vesterday's

"I don't think this signals the convincing hold on the northern tier of the US, Wells Fargo is still a dominant bank in

> Speculation also centred on Chase Manhattan which, after its 1996 combination with Chemical Bank, would already rate as America's third large bank after Citigroup - the com-bined Citicorp and Travelers Group - and the joined BankAmerica and Nations-Bank. Analysts expect Chase to try one more merger of its own.

> Not everyone in the US is cheering the hank merger mania. "We've seen a real epidemic of mergers," said Arlen Specter, a Pennsylvania Representative. "I am sceptical about the public interest being served."

> Bigger hanks means bigger fees," said Edmund Mierzwinksi of the US Public Interest Research Group. "Studies have confirmed that higger banks use monopoly muscle to charge their customers higher fees."

Meanwhile, the US securities watchdog slapped a \$1m fine on Morgan Stanley Dean Witter for manipulating the price of 10 securities in the Nasdaq 100 Index hack in 1995.

The National Association of Securities Dealers has sanctioned seven Morgan Stanley traders, including the firm then over-the-counter desk head trader.

The former head trader was suspended from the brokerage industry for 90 days and fined \$100,000. The other six traders were each suspended for 30 days and fined \$25,000.

Sudhir Junankar, the CBI's

is intensifying and seems set to

restrain the ability of firms to

changes in outlook was in the

banking sector, with a balance

of 23 per cent of respondents

quarter, 25 per cent of banks

surveyed were gloomy about the

business outlook. A record 88

per cent of securities respon-

dents also said business volumes

One of the most marked

hoost profits growth.

Outlook, page 21



Floods may wash £75m off profits, Royal says

By Terry Macalister

associate director of economic analysis, said: "The recovery in business optimism ... in part re-ROYAL Sun Alliance, one of the flects less concern among fi-UK's leading insurers, yesterday nancial services companies that admitted that the floods which demand conditions will hamper wreaked havoc in the Midlands over Easter could knock £75m prospects. However, the pressure from domestic competition off its profits this year.

The stocks of nearly all big insurers fell yesterday as the stock market reacted to estimates that claims could total £1.2bn. Royal's shares fell 11.5p to 771p. Commercial Union. Guardian Royal and General upbeat about prospects. Last Accident were among other large insurers whose share

prices slumped. Royal Sun Alliance accepted it was in the front line for claims from flooded housebolders as it had risen over the last quarter. has the biggest market share in

claims from car owners, hoteliers and farmers.

John Kehoe, Royal's household manager, believed that the overall tally of claims could reach £700m but said it was hard to predict the exact financial impact on the company.

A spokeswoman added: "It takes time for goods to dry out properly and so we will not know the exact level of claims for some time yet. But £75m might be a reasonable guesstimate [for Royal's share]."

Some analysts believed the Royal claims figure could be closer to £100m. But the insurance group said that any claims over £75m would be met by a reinsurance contract it has.

Direct Line, a part of the roy-

such business. There will also be all Bank of Scotland, said insurance companies were there cause increased competition to deal with problems such as has lead to a tightening of inthe floods. "It's bad, but it's a surance rates." manageable event," said a spokesman

> The Association of British. Insurers helieved the floods could cost the industry up to hit on the stock market yester-£500m. But Jeffrey Saimon, chairman of Salmon Assessors, claimed the final hill could be greater than the £1.2bn paid out after the 1987 hurricane.

The flood claims have not come at a good time for an industry which bas grown used to relatively low level of payouts to cover natural disasters and is facine a fall in premium income.

City analysts have already forecast that Royal's 1998 profits would fall to £840m this year.

Shares in Commercial Union, awaiting permission to merge with rival General Accident, were one of the hardest day. They fell 15p to 1265p although analysts said the group

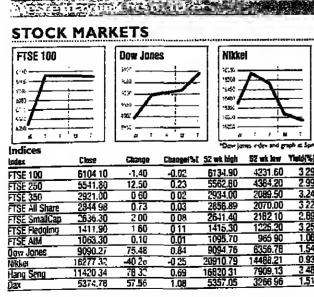
received most of its profits

from life assurance and Euro-

pean business and therefore

should be little hit by floods. Lloyd's of London confirmed that it held a series of reinsurance contracts. A spokesman said of the flooding: "It will have some impact but until some of the primary claims are in its too early to say what

effect it will have on us."



INTEREST RATES 510.00 -47.50

CURRENCIES OTHER INDICATORS

	TOURIST RA	TES
7		
	Australia (\$)	2.4796
Ш	Austria (schillings)	20.74
	Belgium (francs)	61.00
	Canada (\$)	2.3336
	Cyprus (pounds)	0.8595
11	Denmark (krone)	11.33
- 1	Finland (markka)	9.0272
lgo	France (francs)	9.9051
49	Germany (marks)	2.9547
33 . .57	Greece (drachma)	511,33
56	- Hong Kong (\$)	12.54
	ireland (punts) :	1.1695
	Indian (rupees)	60.58
	Israel (shekels)	5,6653
80	kaly (lira).	2931
~	Japan (yen)	214.10
'ਫ਼	Malaysia (doggits)	5.8219
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Malta (Rra)	0.6365
Mexican (nuevo osso)	12.89
Netherlands (guilders)	3.3239
New Zealand (\$)	2.9260
Norway (krone)	12,32
Portugal (escudos)	300.99
Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0805
Singapore (\$)	2.5406
Spain (pesetas)	249.89
South Africa (rands)	8.0992
Sweden (krone)	12.82
Switzerland (francs)	2.4577
Thalland (balss)	60.06
Turkey (ilrasi)	396.953.
USA (\$)	1.6302
Rates for indication	
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OUTLOOK ON THE LIKELIHOOD OF MERGER MANIA SPREADING TO THIS SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC, AND EFFORTS TO REVIVE A ONCE-PROUD **CURRENCY**

No banking mega-mergers please, we're British

IT'S happening in the US; it's happening on the Continent. The question is whether we should be allowing it to happen on the same scale in Britain too? Consolidation in banking and other financial services is reaching unstoppable momentum in the US; it has also gathered pace on the Continent. There's been a fair amount of it here as well, but against such mega deals as the merger of Switzerland's two leading banks, Citicorp and Travelers, and now BankAmerica and NationsBank, we ain't seen nothing yet.

There are two underlying reasons for . this. Partly, it is to do with executive ego and management incompatibility. Particularly in banking, but to some extent in insurance too, this seems to be more of a problem here than clsewhere. There's been lots of talking, plenty of dreaming, lots of flirtation but, somehow or other, few of the really big prospective deals seem to get much past the taking down of the home telephone number stage. There is a tangible reluctance, reinforced by the daunting size of the management challenge these grandiose mergers involve, to take the plunge.

But mainly it is to do with public policy. Even if Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, could persuade his opposite number at Nat West, Abbey National, Prudential, or whoever, to agree merger terms, could he get it past Margaret Beckett at the Department of Trade and Industry? At the momeot, the answer seems to be no. Time may be on his side. however, With every giant US and cootioental deal, Mr Taylor's hand is strengthened and his case becomes more powerful

fiercely anti-merger stance we have seen so far from Mrs Beckett and her ally at the Treasury, Gordoo Brown? When everyone around us is busy consolidating, are we not being like King Canute in resisting the ride?

The dilemma posed by the present wave of merger mania is almost as old as trade itself. Are these things to be viewed as little more than a conspiracy against the public. a way of achieving market dominance so as better to crunch and exploit the customer, or should we be less sceptical, accept that the world has changed, and go along with the idea that in order to compete adequately in the global market place, our companies need the economies of scale that can be achieved by murgers of this son?

These are difficult questions, and the answers are still far from clear. For the UK, however, the case for further significant consolidation in banking and other industries ruo by tightly knit oligopolies. has yet to be convincingly put.

This column has never belonged to the "all business is theft" school of thought. that hrand of radical consumerism which believes that the public has to be constantly and vigorously protected against the aims and ambitions of hig business. Further, it is probably reasonable to believe that on the whole markets are self correcting, that true monopoly is rarely sustainable for very long, that eventually and inevitably monopoly collapses under its own weight because of its mability to innovate and its

On this line of argument, then, policy-

So should policymakers be revisiting this makers don't need to do anything to proterritory and easing up just a little on the teet the public from hig consolidating mergers: they should just let husiness do what it wants and the public will protect itself. The point was well put by a columnist io Business Reck recendy while defending Bill Gutes against the attacks of the US Justice Department. "What is happening here is that Sun Microsystems. Netscape Communications, and Novell are trying to achieve through antitrust politics what they could not achieve in the market place," he wrote. "Economists have known for decades that antitrust is what losers do with winners."

The argument is all the more powerfully made with Microsoft since this is a company which has invented and created its own monopoly. Why should it oot be allowed to enjoy the fruits of its own success? But the same sort of point might be made about quite of lot of mergers too. Certainly, it could be made about Citicorp and Travelers. The openly admitted aim of this merger is that of greater market reach and clour, but if the new combine cannot deliver the goods, as seems highly likely, consumers will vote with their feet and the new behemoth will be still born.

All the same, for markets to remain free and fully open to competition does require a certain basic level of policing. There is a clear case for a rather heavier dose of it with UK banking. It may be true that the Continent and the US, with their legions of small regional banks, are "overbanked" but it is not true of Britain. Our leading players already eojoy shares of certain key market segments which might reasonably attract the label of monopoly, they are in rude financial health, and their profits have reached a level many would regard as excessive. Barriers to entry may be falling, but they are still high.

Globalisation and the coming of the single currency obviously changes the debate to some degree, breaking down national barriers, creating pressure for one-stop banking, particularly from hig corporate customers, and generally squeezing margins. But it is going to take many years for these powerful, local market positions seriously to erode. To allow them to grow more powerful still in the meantime cannot but act against the general public interest. There is no good policy reason for blocking cross-horder, or cross financial services, mergers (though investors might find plenty of other reasons for it). However, the time to open the flood gates completely has not yet arrived.

What the G7 can do about the yen

EVERY meeting of G7 finance ministers causes some anxiety to the currency markets. The question is whether today's might prove one of those meetings that marks a turning point in exchange rate trends - like the one in April 1995 that hauled the dollar up off its post-war low against the yen.

In fact, there are two questions in one here. Do the G7 countries have the political will to heave together in the same directioo? And do economic fundamentals support an effort to turn the tide in the market and reverse the fall in the yen? The answer at present is "maybe" to both.

On the face of it, both the US and Japan should want to keep the yen weak against the dollar. It is the main thing that has been standing between Japan and recession, boosting its exports. This has increased the already bloated and politically sensitive US trade deficit with Japan, but that is perhaps a price worth paying to avoid an even worse downturn in the

world's second biggest economy. Robert Ruhin, the US Treasury Secretary, indicated yesterday that he was content with a strong dollar and again emphasised the need for Japan to resume growth. However, the Japanese would prefer a stronger yen. They are concerned about potential trade tensions with both the US and their beleaguered Asian neighbours. So it is possible that today's G7 meeting will agree to try to boost the yen as long as the Japanese government agrees to try harder to boost the domestic

But would a yen-support operation work when Japan is in such trouble? In its favour is the likelihood that US growth will slow during the course of this year. The stimulus measures already announced in Japan are expected to boost growth in the second half of this year, although the financial markets are as sceptical as the rest of the G7 about how effective the tax cuts will be in practice. All the same, there may be enough to the fundamentals to turn the currency markets now, if co-ordinated intervention takes place. Last week's dollar sales lovolved the Bank of Japan alone. All eyes will be on the New York Fed after the issue of today's communique.

Inflation pressures recede

By Diane Coyle

slowdown on the high street last said. There is no inflationary month and almost no pressure pressure from the high street." on prices at the factory gate. With this year's late Easter. of the absence of inflationary delaying retail spending into pressure at the start of the April, and sharply lower oil price chain. The Office for Naprices keeping manufacturers' terday provided some extra 0.2 per cent in March to a levammunition for opponents of any further interest rate rise.

Growth in retail sales fell back sharply last month, according to the British Retail. Consortium (BRC). The yearon-year increase in "like-forlike" sales dropped to 0.4 per cent from 3.4 per cent in Feb-. ruary, and in total sales to 3.0 per cent from 6.6 per cent.

The BRC reckoned that the timing of Easter reduced the . March figure by 3 per cent, however, which suggests there was little change in the underlying trend. Its report added that had weather had also hit sales of some items, and it . would not be possible to draw any firm conclusions before April's survey was published.

Sales growth at DIY and garden centres, for example, compared badly with a year earlier. The Easter effect also reduced year-on-year figures for department stores, which tend to link promotions to the holiday.

The wet weather boosted sales of rainwear but hit sales of the spring fashions. Swimsuits hucked the trend, however. "Customers are either buying unusually early or going abroad," the report commented.

Ano Robinsoo, the BRC's director-general, said there had been unusual ups and downs in sales since the summer due to a series of special factors such as windfall spending, the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, and timing changes at Christmas and New Year. But sales growth had

slowed compared with 1996 and the trend appeared stable. "Nothing is happening to suggest it will either pick up or THERE were signs of both a slow down from here," she

> There was certainly evidence tional Statistics said prices el 1 per cent higher than a year earlier. Higher petrol duties announced in the Budget accounted for half of the increase, which was bigger than expected.

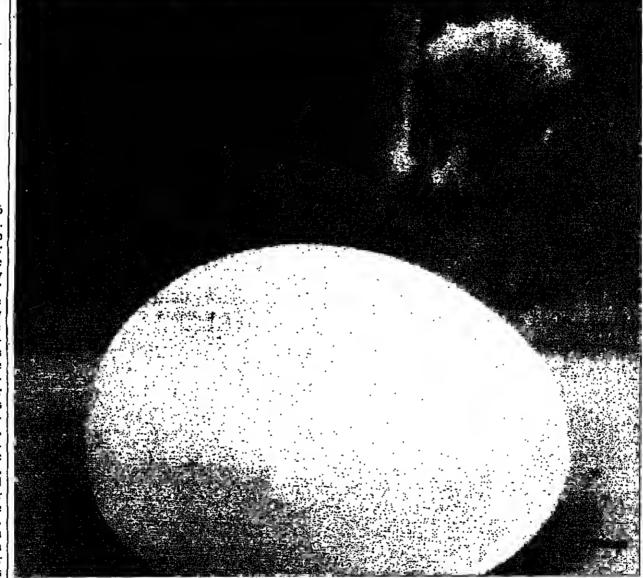
The annual rate of increase in output prices excluding food, beverages, tobacco and petrol slipped from 0.4 to 0.3 per cent in March, the lowest rate in "core" prices since July 1967.

A drop of more than a tenth in crude oil prices, taking them 36 per cent lower than a year earlier, helped reduce prices paid by manufacturers by I per cent last month. Input prices were 10.1 per cent lower than a year earlier.

"These numbers show there is no threat at all of inflationary pressures in the manufacturing sector," Francesca Massone at Goldman Sachs said. The dangers lay in pay

The strength of the pound explains the weakness of inflationary pressures in manufacturing, especially for bulk commodities. But David Hillier. an economist at Barclays Capital, pointed out that the impact of sterling was also clear in some higher value-added products. For example, factory gate prices for office machinery and computers fell in March to a level 6.1

per cent down on a year earlier. He predicted that the incorporation of computer prices in the retail price index, which started with February's figures, would make the headline inflation figures start to look better.



Cracking the problem: The ostrich in the advertisement illustrating the folly of a 'head in the sand' approach

FSA alerts younger generation to pensions mis-selling review

By Lea Paterson

THE Financial Services Anthnrity yesterday used an ostrich tn alert the public to the dangers of ignoring its investigatinn into the mis-selling of pensinns. The tendency of the world's

largest specie of bird to bury its bead in the sand is meant to ilhustrate to potential claimants that they must step forward if they want to obtain redress.

The ostrich took the key role in a new public information film aimed at bringing a final The first phase of the review eod to a scandal which could eventually cost the insurance industry £11bn.

The purpose of the film is to emphasise the need for investors to respood to letters or requests from firms relating to the personal pensions review. It also urges people to take active steps to contact their pensions firm if they feel they

were mis-sold products. The personal peosicos review is aimed at people wrongly sold pensions between 29 April 1988 and 30 June 1994. concentrated on "priority" cases for those at or near retiremeet and those that have died.

The deadline for priority cases is December of this year but progress has been slow. Only 225,000 investors have so far accepted offers of redress and the total amount paid out so far has been £1,2hn.

The second phase for less urgent cases is aimed at 1.87 million investors, many nf whom are believed to be under 35. The FSA's chief, Howard Davies, said he hoped progress

nn the secood phase would be much quicker. The campaign is to be paid for by the pensions industry.

The FSA is also trying to raise public awareness of pensioos mis-selling through a poster campaign. Schools and colleges in England and Wales bave been sent posters aimed at the teaching profession.

Rno Devlin, the FSA's director for the pensions review said the film occded to appeal to a wide audieoce on a subject that was usually considered

ABF warns of £45m hole as sterling slices into profits

ASSOCIATED British Foods, the maker of Sunblest Bread and Twinings Tea, last night warned that the soaring price of sterling could puncture a £45m hole in this year's profits, ABF's share price slumped 28.5p to 597.5p after its chairman, Gerry Weston, admitted profits could fall heavily from last year's underlying figure of £420m due to currency movements and slower export growth. Analysis said they were downgrading 1998 profit forecasts. ABF's pre-tax profits for the six months to February lell from £201m to £193m. The group, in which the 70-year-old Mr Weston and his family are substantial shareholders, said currency factors knocked £22m off interim operating profits.

lovestmeot column, page 22

Swiss banks to axe more jobs

ANOTHER 240 City jobs are to go at UBS and SBC, the merging Swiss banks. The latest round of job cuts - which is "substantially under way" according to one source - is in the banks' fixed income departments. Around 185 of the job losses will be at UBS. widely perceived as the weaker of the merging parties. A further 760 fixed income jobs are to go outside of the UK.

March retail sales fall in US

US retail sales fell in March for the first time in five months due to weaker demand for durable goods such as cars and furniture. New car sales, which account for a quarter of total sales, were down 0.7 per cent during the month, while sales of other goods edged up 0.1 per cent. The headline total was down 0.1 per cent after a strong 0.7 per cent gain in February. Separate figures showed US consumer prices stayed flat in March after a small rise of just 0.1 per cent the previous month and no change in January. Lower energy prices play a big part in explaining the price stability, but the prices of other goods have also been flat or falling.

UN backs global deregulation

THE United Nations has come out in favour of financial deregulation for developing countries despite the disturbing example set by the crisis in Asia. But a new report from the UN Development Programme. "Perspectives on International Capital Liberalisation", warns countries should not be forced to move too far, too fast in opening up to foreign capital. Although the prosoutweigh the cons. it recommends stronger and more transparent hanking systems and tough capital standards as preconditions - putning the UN, unusually, in agreement with the traditionally free-market IMF. The UN says organisations like the IMF and World Bank should put a massive effort into helpiog developing countries create the institutions and regulatory systems they need to cope with free capital flows.

SmithKline boosts portfolio

SMITHKLINE Beecham, the pharmaceuticals giant which recently pulled out of merger talks with Glavo Wellcome, yesterday attempted to reassure the market by giving an update on the progress of more than 60 new treatments in its research and development pipeline. The company said its expanding portfolio of drugs and vaccioes would translate into sustained growth well into the next millennium. Avandia, the diabetes drug, has progressed to phase III clinical trials and there have been encouraging test results for Idoxifene. SmithKline's osteoporosis treatment. However, the shares slipped 11.5p to 788.5p.

Cadbury chocolates take off

CADBURY Schweppes, the food and drinks giant, is to satisfy the sweet tooth of British Airways passengers after signing a contract to supply the airline with 5 million chocolate bars. Dairy Milk, Caramel aod Wispa bars will he sold on long-haul flights.

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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

Sour taste of sterling for ABF

BILLIONAIRE haker Garry Weston has served his shareholders at Associated British Foods well over the longer term with his hrand of strong but conservative management. However, investors could be in for a lengthy wait before they benefit from any further tasty morsels from the AB Foods table.

The company is taking a drubhing from sterling, even though it is sitting on a £1.5bn cash pile which has its competitors drooling with envy.

There is no question of a major change in strategy because the 70-yearold executive chairman insists he has no plans for retirement. Neither is he much interested in the latest share buyhack trend, which would in effect transfer cash from the business to his family, which still owns a lot of the company. Besides, he wants to use excess money to build the company through further acquisitions.

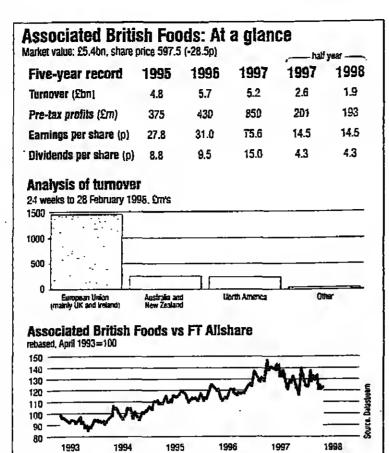
The trouble is that assets are expensive in today's bull market, especially in the US where AB Foods is doing well and is keen to expand. Mr Weston knows all this; he missed out on Dalgety's milling husinesses because he thought they were too expensive and he admitted vesterday future purchases are likely to be relatively small.

This brings AB Foods back to the present, where interim profits before tax fell from £201m to £193m in the six months to 28 February, while sales fell from £2.6bn to £1.9bn.

Last year's results were artificially inflated by the £420m sale of Irish businesses. But the last six months for AB Foods have been made much worse by the strength of sterling, which reduced group profits by £22m.

Weston is the first to admit that this is not going to go away. He estimates AT FIRST GLANCE, selling computer a £40m to £45m hit against full-year operating profits as a result of the conversion of overseas profits into sterling and the impact on British exports like rea and hiscuits.

There were strong trading performances from Allied Bakeries in the UK but operating profits of the important British Sugar subsidiary were hit by the pound. Operations in the US performed particularly well.



some analysis to downgrade their 1998 forecasts from £460m to the £415m

With the shares down 28.50 to 597.5p this puts AB Foods on a forward multiple of 19 compared with 20 for the sector. That is probably fair.

EB's master game plan

games looks like child's play. After all, any industry where a load of testosterone-fuelled teenagers can he convinced to part with piles of cash for the latest shoot 'em up game just a few months after the last one hit the shelves can't be hard to master. Can it?

Well, it can. The main problem is that the majority of the games are sold in the first few days after release. A US chain recently reported that, of the concessions, While AB Foods is in rude health, 100,000 copies of a particular game

overall currency problems have forced it has sold since January, half were sold in the first weekend. This means that retailers have to think like teenagers when deciding which games more than the £78.5m it paid for it in to stock. Not huying enough of a 1995, although the company points out popular game means they sell out in that, after capital spending, the husino time. Buying too many of a dud ness has yielded £19m in cash flow over leaves the retailer sitting on over- three years.

> the US group of the same name, EB has expanded its network to 150 stores, including 17 concessions in Debenhams. Since hitting the stock market in June last year, its shares have City dislikes commodity husinesses.

EB's secret weapon is its parent company, which retains a 25 per cent stake. Since most games are first released in the US. EB can get a feel current speculation about Courtaulds, for how they have been received before this is more than just wishful thinking deciding how many to buy for the UK. Its success means it is now aiming for 200 stores around the country, with as than hid speculation to the shares, up many again in the form of in-store 34.5p to 277p. On profit forecasts of

Despite the competing attractions ward p/e ratio of 12. Good value:

of the Sony Playstation and Nintendo 64 consoles, demand continues to grow. Brokers forecast profits of £13m, rising to £16m, putting the shares, up 5.75p to 68p yesterday, on a rating of 16 times next year's earnings. That's still some way off EB's high score. Buy.

inspec looks a takeover target

INSPEC may seem to have caught the market by surprise yesterday when it announced the sale of its Belgian operations. The 14 per cent share price rise which accompanied the news certainly caught some dealers napping. In fact, Inspec - urged on by its shareholders - has been trying to flog the husiness for the best part of a year.

The problem with the Belgian operation is its uppredictability. It mostly makes ethylene oxide, which is used as a raw material for products like paints and lubricants. As a commodity chemical, demand and prices are highly votatile. In the three years that Inspec owned the business, operating profits went from £12.4m to £6.4m and hack up to £13.1m. With the Asian crisis looming, the next movement was likely to be down.

At £84m, the price Inspec got for the Belgian husiness is not much

The real attraction of the deal, how-Electronics Bounque has mastered ever, is that it gives Inspec more conthis particular game. A spin-off from trol over its operations. This is not a new trend - the reception for ICI's decision to trade in its hulk chemicals for Unilever's speciality chemicals operations last year showed how much the.

> What's more, the deal removes a potential poison pill, making inspec a prime takeover target. Given the recent battle for Allied Colloids and the by investment bankers. The sector is ripe for consolidation. But there is more about £50m the shares trade on a for-

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

IOHN WILLCOCK



HONEYSUCKLE, a company which makes and designs ladies' woollens and is based in Leeds, has been bought by a group of investors who intend to use it to pursue a £25m acquisitions spree. The company's shares were suspended yesterday pending a refinancing by Sandy Andersen and Barry Dale.

Under the terms of the deal Linda and David Serr, who founded Honeysuckle from humble beginnings in Leeds market, will reduce their stake from 66 per cent to under 10 per cent. Sandy Anderson has bought National Westminster Bank's debenture, for over £1m, and is providing Honeysuckle with a £1.3m working capital facility.

Mr Anderson was one of the first business people to benefit from the public transport selloff, and trousered £30m from the sale of Porterbrook to Stagecoach. His business partner Barry Dale, former chief executive of Littlewoods, is also putting some money in.

Mr Anderson will underwrite part of a proposed placing and open offer "at a significant discount to the current share price" to raise further funds, the company said yesterday.

Adrian Bradshaw of Bradmount Investments, a former chief executive of Incepta, helped put the new investor group together. --He said: "Our intention is to expand outside the textile arena through a fairly material acquisition in excess of £25m. The placing circular in June will have more details."

SHAREHOLDERS in Thistle Hotels will be delighted to hear that the company has appointed lan Burke as its chief executive. Mr Burke, who comes from Bass, will replace Robert Peel, a guru of the hotel industry who. however, checked out of Thistle after its share price took the downward escalator.

Thistle has searched for a successor for the last four months and has alighted on Mr Burke, who has been managing director of "Europe, Middle East, Africa - holiday hospitality" at Bass since 1995. Sounds a jolly title.

Robert Peel and his brother Charlie Peel virtually created Thistle Hotels when they bought a stake with friends in Mount Charlotte Investments from Jun Slater way back in the 1970s. Mr Slater is of course now enjoying something of an Indian summer as the small investors' friend and guide. Charlie Peel is a stockbroker. now with Peel Hunt. Robert Peel has bounced back by launching Peel Hotels on ATM.

I wish Mr Burke well, although the best thing he could do as far as I am concerned is demolish the ghastly Thistle Hotel overlooking the Tower of London and Tower Bridge. It must surely be the ugliest building in Britain.

NASDAQ has appointed a Brit, Maggie Kelly, as head of all its European marketing, operating out of London. The American-based electronic stock exchange is currently attempting to merge with the American Stock Exchange, confusingly called Amex, though it has nothing to do with the credit card company.

Ms Kelly has spent the last 12 years in the US, having gone there originally to work with Ogilvy & Mather, and because her hushand was an American. She now has three children who are "in deep culture shock" having been moved to the UK, she says.

Nasdaq is the first stock exchange, as far as I know, to advertise on television, and this will continue, Ms Kelly says, along with a host of other promotions "to establish awareness of Nasdaq with institutional investors, brokers and individual investors".

PHILIP ROWLEY has returned to Kingfisher after a decade away. In 1987 he was financial controller of the group for about a year before leaving. Now he has emerged as Tony Percival's successor as finance director.

Mr Rowley is presently executive vice president, chief financial officer and chief uperating officer of Golden Books, the US children's book puhlisher. He has been with Golden Books since 1996.

The prodigal Mr Rowley said: "I am deighted to be re-joining Kingfisher. I know many of the senior people and have of course taken a keen interest in the company's rapid and successful development over the past few

STEPHEN DAVIES has joined the Financial Services Authority (FSA). No, this does not mean Howard Davies has taken up snooker. This Steve Davies is corrently economist at the Institute of Directors, and has been appointed senior economist, UK economic analysis, at the FSA.

AND FINALLY, British Digital Broadcasting has appointed a finance director, Jeanette Wilkins, who comes from one of its co-owners, Granada. BDB is still awaiting the arrival of its chief executive designate, Stephen Grabiner, who faces a court action to keep him by his former employers. United News & Media.

: L976m (2.70m) :193.0m (201.0m) 14.5p (14.5p) 4.25p (4.25p)

0.363m (0.507m) 0.17p (0.6p) 0.1p (nli)

· 24.0m (14.12m) · 0.288m (0.148m) 0.6p (0.5p) 0.2p (0.2p)

Downlog & Mills (f) 59.33m (61.20m) 0.844m (7.12m) 2.24p (2.84p) 1.13p (1.13p)

makes Bootlean (P) .124.32m (74.14m) 8.0m (0.5m) 2.89p (0.19p) - (-)

COMPANY RESULTS

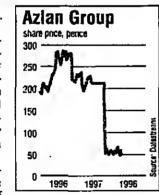
Serious Fraud Office begins investigation into Azlan

By Peter Thai Larsen

AZLAN, the embattled computer products distributor, yesterday suffered a fresh blow after it revealed that the Serious Fraud Office had started an investigation into suspected false accounting during the financial year which eventually led to the company declaring a £14m loss. The investigation is under-

stood to have been passed to the SFO by the Department of Trade and Industry, which held informal talks with Azlan's management last year.

However, it is not clear whether the investigation in-



month investigation into accounting irregularities last year.

During the course of the investigation the chief executive. Christian Martin, the finance divolves former directors who rector, Adrian Lamb and the left the company during a four- chairman Mike Brooke all re-

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Azlan shocked the market last June when it suspended trading in its shares after uncovering accounting irregularities. The company eventually reported a £14m loss, compared to the £14.8m profit it had forecast six months earlier.

Barrie Morgans, a former chief executive of IBM UK, was hrought in as chief executive and chairman. He blamed the losses en a "serious failure uf management and internal financial control" but said that there was no evidence of serious fraud. The company launched

a £24m rescue rights issue. Yesterday, Mr Morgans said

signed from the board, though the new management would investigation. However, he said he did not know how long the it would last or whether it in-

> volved any former directors. "It's about events in the past," he said. "It has no bearing on the current husiness."

Nevertheless. Azlan shares slipped 7.5p to 50p. When the problems were first uncovered they were suspended at 555p.

The company has struggled to shake off the stigma of last year's problems. A few weeks ago, it emerged that Compaq. the US computer giant, had withdrawn the accreditation which permits Azlan to conduct training courses on its behalf in

recognition. Electronics

ELECTRONICS Bourique, the computer games retailer, yeserday announced plans to almost double its number of stores in the UK, writes Peter Thal Larsen.

Boutique aims

for 200 stores

"I think we can get to over 200 stores in the UK," chief executive John Steinhrecher said The group currently has 133 outlets, as well as 17 concessions in branches of Debenhams.

Mr Steinhrecher also revealed that the company was talking to another three retailers about opening more concessions. He said that in time, the number of in-store concessions could equal the number of stores owned by Electronics Boutique itself. Meanwhile, the company said opportunities for expanding outside the UK were being

Mr Steinhrecher was speaking as Electronics Boutique revealed a 16-fold rise in pre-tax profits to £7.96m, helped by booming demand for the Nintendo 64 and Sony Playstation consoles, and games such as Tomh Raider II. Final Fantasy VII and Fifa '98. On a like-forlike basis, turnover improved by 55 per cent.

recognise unions now By Barrie Clement said his members would be in

Oil giants are urged to

Labour Editor

the Government reveals its proposals on rights at work, the big oil companies are coming under intense pressure to reinstate union recognition.

The Transport & General Workers' Union is calling for talks with Esso. Shell. BP and Mobil, all of which withdrew collective bargaining systems in the four years up to 1995.

Fred Higgs, the union's enior national official for the oil industry, said his organisation had maintained membership in all four companies - and in some areas had increased it - since management withdrew

Mr Higgs was confident the level of membership would ensure that the oil companies were forced to reintroduce bargaining rights, whatever test of union support was introduced by the White Paper "Fairness At Work".

He urged management to rethink their "anti-union strategy" and negotiate voluntary agreements now, rather than wait for no mood to make concessions if the union had to resort to the

Mr Higgs said that they would demand the reinstatement of procedures that existed. five years ago.

*If anybody really wants to know why legislation on recognition is important, they ought to look at what the oil industry has done to loyal and productive workers," Mr Higgs said.

He accused the companies of "colluding" with each other to withdraw union agreements applying to nearly 10,000 process and distribution workers and of using "intimidation" to pressure employees into signing individual contracts.

In a suhmission to the Employment Select Committee, he accused the oil companies of "ideological opportunism". During the period when they attacked union organisation, they had "collectively decided that they were unlikely to have a better economic, legislative or political climate in which to de-unionise the industry in the UK".

All four oil companies deny allegations of collusion and

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INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT SAATCHI & SAATCHI

the law to force it on them. He Cable & Wireless in talks with Italian operator

By Peter Thal Larsen

CABLE & Wireless, the international telecoms group, esterday confirmed that it was in talks with the Italian stateowned operator Telecom Italia about forming a strategic

C&W said that it was exploring "opportunities for cooperation on their respective international networks and provision of services to global customers with Telecom Italia.

Meanwhile, C&W has agreed to sell its 20 per cent stake in Bouygues Telecom, the French mobile phone group, to Telecom Italia. C&W did not put a figure on the transaction which is subject to approval from regulators and Bouygues Telecom's other

recent months that C&W was about to sell the stake. Dick Brown, the group's chief executive, last year promised to raise £1bn by selling off some of the company's minority interests.

The company gave no further details on talks with Telecom Italia, which are believed to be at an early stage. It is unclear how the discus-

sions will affect the Italian group's attempts to join Unisource, the international telecoms alliance led by AT&T, the US giant.

C&W has been under pressure to form an international link ever since merger talks with British Telecom broke down last

C&W shares closed up 10.5p to 748.5p.

Transatlantic merger mania boosts banks

MARKET REPORT



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DEREK PAIN

Without the strong banking sector the stock market would Lloyds getting together have been very subdued. At with HSBC, up 43p at 2,025p, when New York opened in their progress.

But the market can be a perverse place. Blue chips ing down takeover approaches spent the afternoon in disarray, - Barclays is one that is said with Footsie at one time down 22.3 points. It ended just 1.4 lower at 6,104.1.

hobday was extended seemed turmoil erupted. to be responsible for the poor performance.

Still, the feast of the bankers ignored the trend. Lloyds jumped 52.5p to the company's rescue 12 years 1,075p, a new peak, in re- ago. There are suggestions he markably busy trading. With a would be prepared to sell.

THE latest display of America's merger mania created from a capable of making a were in form. Family conshares added 34 p to 1,582 p. predictable excitement among powerful British contribution bank shares, with Lloyds TSB to the financial deal-making given the dubious distinction which has prompted three of leading the British response. huge transatlantic financial deals in a week.

one time Footsie was riding at was one of the unlikely stories a new high, up 45 points. And flying around. Standard Chartered, which resisted the should have at least held on to was also back in the frame with a 46p gain to 1,018p.

Rumours of Standard turnto have made overtures - are never far from the group, which is now within hailing A little profit taking in distance of the 1,081.5p peak

> Far Eastern tycoon Tan Sri per cent. He was one of the "white squires" who rode to

trolled Schroders gained 105p to 2.745p and National Westminster Bank 40p to 1,200p.

Despite some indifferent displays by the former building societies, the bank sector was up almost 2 per cent. Halifax, in the doldrums since it opted for buying shares in the market rather than reexhilarating style equities Lloyds embrace 12 years ago, turning cash through special dividends or shares huy-backs, lost 4.5p to 875.5p. The shares touched 977p_

Insurances, particularly the non-life variety, missed the fun, weighed down by the Easter storms. Commercial Union, at one time off 63p, ended 15p lower at 1,265p and thin trading as the Easter achieved before the Asian GRE finished 7.75p down (after 15p) at 432.25p. The insurers rallied after the Asso-Khoo Tech Puat has around 15 ciation of British Insurers estimated the storm costs at £300m to £500m - much lower

than other forecasts. The storm bill washed over General Accident. Helped by

Two other old bid faithfuls Charterhouse Tilney, the 499p and Boots 20.5p to 31.5p to 351p; John David

Disappointment with Associated British Foods' figures feft the shares down 28.5p at 597.5p and J Sainsbury and Boots were hit by worries the dismal Easter weather had depressed do-it-vourself sales.



942.5p.

SmithKline Beecham's presentation made little im- Kleinwort Benson softened pact, with the shares down JJB's fall by suggesting there 11.5p to 788.5p.

Although the blue-chip advance faltered, the rest of the computer group, retreated 7.5p to 50p after the Serious market was rather more Fraud Office said it intended resilient. The mid cap index to investigate for false acended 12.5 points higher at 5,541.8 and the SmallCap imcounting. Drew Scientific lost proved 2 points to 2,636.3.

Football shares responded warning. to the Easter results. Notcovery continued with the tingham Forest, with promoshares gaining 8.5p to 91p. The tion nearly assured, scored a 12p gain to 81.5p but Sunderland's set back cost 39p to enjoyed support since two di-506p. Manchester Utd slipped rectors bought shares at 44.5p. 4p to 129.5p with Arsenal now favourites to win the Prefurther impetus. miership championship.

old MAID, firmed to 161.5p The recently demerged Debenhams and Arcadia after ABN Amro declared: responded to Morgan Stanley praise with Debs up 10p at buy recommendation with a 377.5p and Arcadia 12.5p to price target of 300p." 450p.

Sports retailers remained in cast for this year with £53.5m the mire. Blacks Leisure fell estimated for the millennium. TAKING STOCK

Sports 5p to 106.5p and JJB

Sports op to 530p. Dresdner

Azian, the accident-prone

15.5p to 73.5p after a profits

set-top decoder maker has

Talk of takeover action added

"We strongly reiterate our

Profits of £24.6m are fore-

Dialog Corporation, the

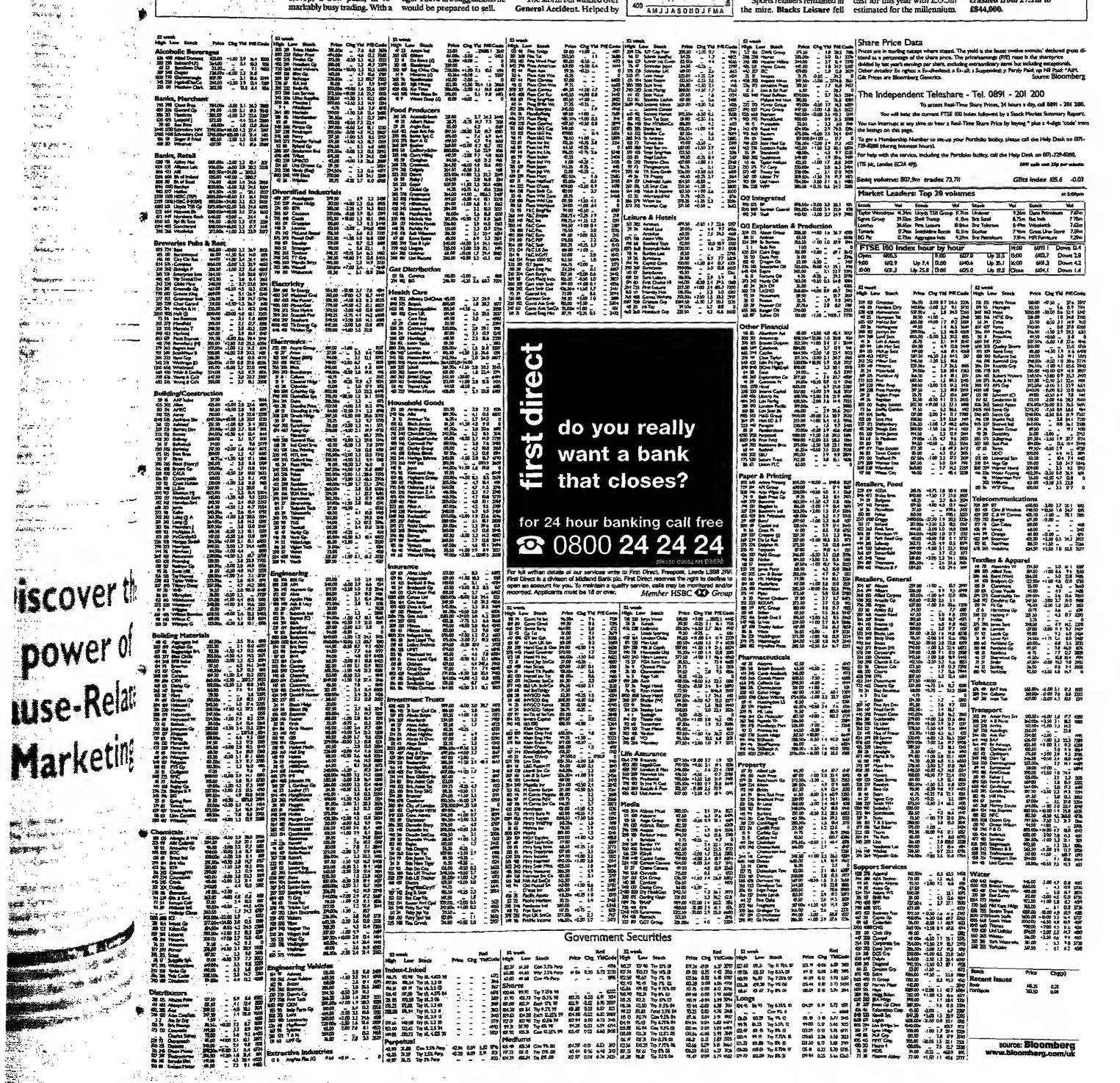
Pace Micro's modest re-

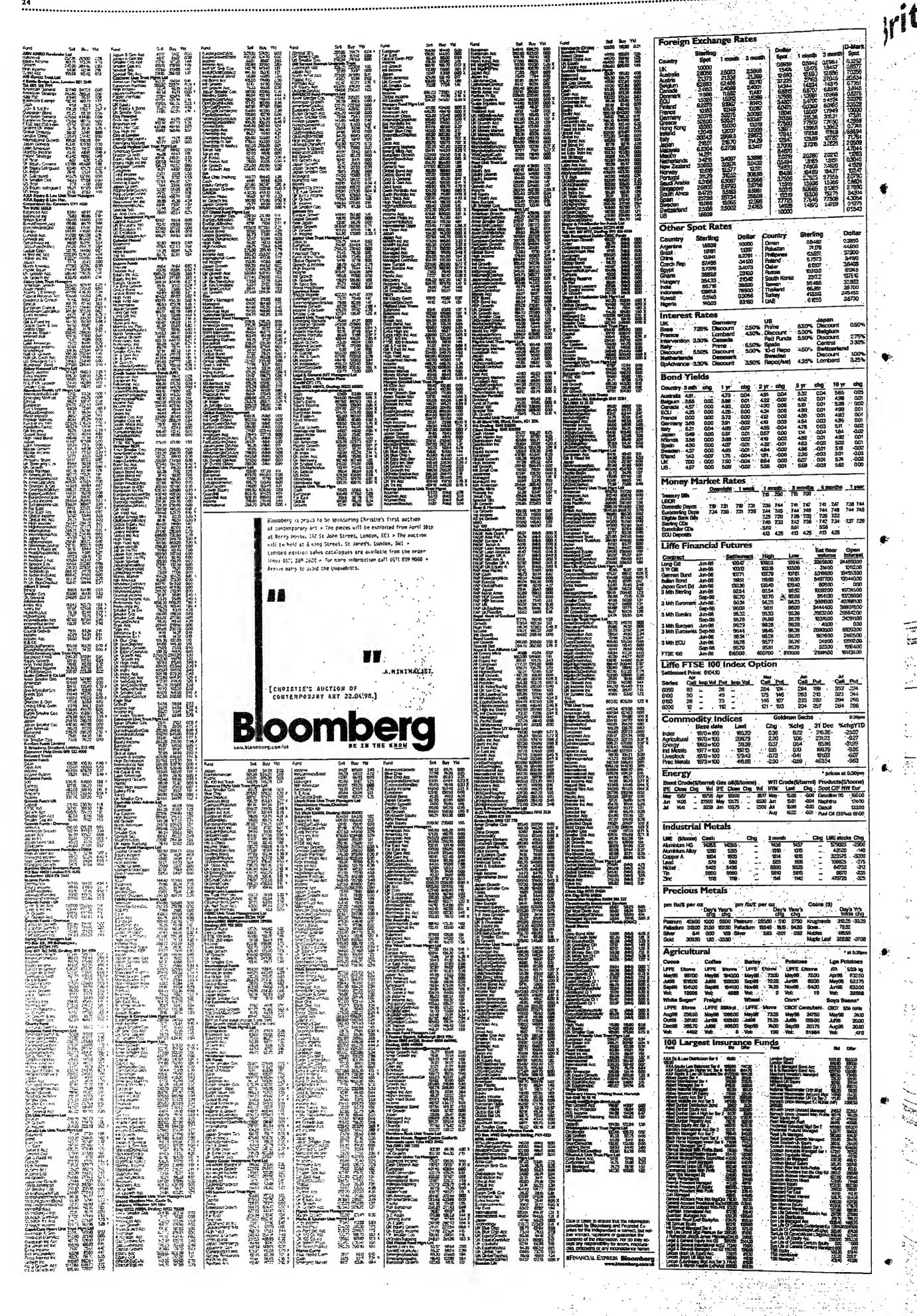
was a 100p upside.

VIDEOLOGIC, which has bobbed between 20p and 111.5p since coming to market three years ago, has acquired a new fan - Crédit Lyonnais. With its new chip said to be ahead of its main competitors in speed, specification and price, the sbares, up 2.5p to 65.5p, are regarded as a buy. The investment house forecasts profits of £3.23m this year after an expected £3.21m loss in the year just ended.

REVELATION Piccadilly, the inggage maker and retailer. has fixed up a deal to snpply crews of United Airlines, the US carrier, with its Skyway luggage. The acquisitive company should produce year's profits of around £1m when it reports next month against £271,000.

DOWDING & Mills is hoping to reduce its mining equipment exposure and is looking for suitable US acquisitions. Its shares tumbled 13.5p to 54p after interim profits crashed from £7.1m to







4.00 Welsh Silk (nb)

4.35 Lyphard's Fable

5.10 The Proms

GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in places)

Lett-hand, galloping course with stiff fences. Uptill run-in of 240yd

Lett-hand, galloping course with stiff fences. Uptill run-in of 240yd

Course is itm north of town off A436. Bus link from Cheltenham station (served by Statio), Brimmigham and London, Pandington; 2m. ADMISSION; Cub C12 & Tatios 48ts combined (jumber, 8-62 years, 52); Courage Enclosure S5. CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS (6-YEAR RECORD): M Pipe 42-266 (h11-b). D Nicholson 34-23 (fcs), N Twiston-Davies 27-238 (ft3-b), J Gifford 20-124 (ft3-b).

LEADING JOCKEYS: N Williamson 31-149 (208-b). A Maguite 25-155 (f5.2-b). C Levellyin 16-159 (ft5-b). M A Fitzgerald 16-154 (f0.2-b).

FAYOURITES: 270 were from 500 races (322-b).

LANGRED FIRST TIME: Paddy's Storm (435). LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLERS: Into The Black (Cheltenham 400) & Elastive Star (Cheltenham 435) have been sent 236 mass.

2.20 LYNX NDVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 27,000 added 2m 5f

—15 declared —
Maramum weight: 10st. True handscap weight: it's A Gem Sat 11b. Ballvgriffin Lad 9ct 90. Nezen 8ct 8b SETTING: 7-2 Persyman, 11-2 Flat flop, 6-1 Graterst, Majors Legacy, 13-2 Master Mario, 12-1 Dark Stranger, Kefly Mac, Malerstord, Persian Ellis, 14-1 Stave Ford, 16-1 Nordic Spree, 20-1 others 1997. Boots N All 7 10 0 8 Fertion 9-2 (G Balding) 7-80.

PERRYMAN's handicap mark has not suffered unduly for his win in Ascots valuable Farview New Homes Novoe Chase this month, as the race is confided to horses who have not won over fences and the juminer-up, 33-1 shot Bank Avenue, whom he beat two and a half lengins, had an official handicap rating of Just 87 That was e good effort from Kim Balley's chaser, who tooked likely to win easily on the home turn. The drop to this trip should help and at least the Ascot win showed he had suffered no lasting it effects from his two previous runs over fences, having ballen at the last at Humingdon when highing every chance against Camera Man and then sloped on the run-in KGhragtons Forthwell race. Third at Ascot came Kelly Mac, who is well held on just 3th before terms. When Perryman fell at Humingdon, Major's Legacy this hed no just 3th before his tild singers second to Camera Man and the selection would have had his measure. Major's Legacy these her numing well once but is 6th works in with Milliers ford trong finished just three-quarters of a length in front of him when they were second and therefore and Folkestone with close seconds at Taumon and Newbury, last time going down two and a half lengths to Lord Fortune, with the others well strain going down two and is half lengths to Lord Fortune, with the others well strain going down two and is half lengths to Lord Fortune, with the others well strain going down two and is half lengths to Lord Fortune, with the others well strain going down two and is half lengths to Lord Fortune, with the others well strain going down two and is half lengths to Lord Fortune, with the others well strain going down two and is half lengths to Lord Fortune, with the others well strain going down two and is half lengths to Lord Fortune, with the others well strain going down two and is half lengths to Lord Fortune. With the others well strain going down two and is half lengths to Lord Fortune with the surface and should stall the surface and the surface and should should be a stage of the str

2.55 CHARLES HEIDSIECK GOLDEN MILLER CANADICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000

— 11 declared —
Affirmum weight, 10st. Title handicap perght. Purce Buck 9st 73%
BETTING: 9-2 Drieff's Brook, 5-1 Tondell Express, 6-1 Kandal Cavaller, 7-1 Naturood Castle, Prince
Buck, 0-1 Footrof Romeo, Foodbroker Stat, 11-1 Well Timed, Sounds Strong, 12-1 Thermal War-

Buck, 0-1 Featral Romae, Foedbroker Star, 11-1 Well Timed, Sounds Strong, 12-1 Thermed Warnot, 16-1 Silver Stick.

1997 Le Meille 8 to 9 N Williamson 7-1 pK Burley to ran

FORM GUIDE

KENDAL CAVALIER, carrying Yibb more than his long-handicap weight when pulled

up in the Greenalle, Grand National Their all Haydock, is worth another chance, the had
won both his previous races, the staying chase on New Year's Day here by 11 lengths
from Simpson and a valuable novice handicap at Unioxeter by so lengths more Coole
fild. He courts stift be shead of the handicappor if back to his best Dirutid's Brook, who
matte such a good impression when winning on his Haydock return, was a well-beston fourth to Silver Stick in the Grand Military Gotti Cup at Sandown next time but is
much better than he was able to show there for an inexperienced amateur. Drud's Brook
was a leading tancy for Monday's Irish Grand Notional but fiel at the fourth. Provided
he is no worse for their mishing and the threeling, he has every chance. Silver Stick was
a well-beaten third to Silent over four miles at Hexham last time and is likely to finti
Drud's Brook too good on 510 worse terms than Sandown, Footifuroker Star has turnibled down the handicap has season and first-pino blakers to yought some improvement
at Sandown last time. Foxfort Romeo was heving his first run in a year when timd to

Parsons Boy at Bangor last month and can do better. Thermal Warrior has had a ghort break since unseating when well beaten at Chepstow in February. He was well out of the handicap then and is one to tear back on his correct mark. Tordut Express

3.30 FAUCETS FOR MIRA RADA SHOWERS SILVER TROPHY CHASE (GRADE 2) (CLASS A) E30,000 added 2m 5f

5 declared BETTING: 8-15 The Grey Monk, 11-2 Go Ballistic, 6-1 Peto The Parson, 15-2 Pimberley Place,

added 3m 2f 110yds

T.4P1 PERSIAN ELITE (104) (Bits Rating Club) C Egenton 7 ft 10
A.F.A. PERRYMAN (14) (Mrs S C Elen) N Baley 7 ft 9
20223 KELLY MAC (14) (Mrs S C Elen) N Baley 7 ft 9
20224 CRATONI (18) (John Pech P Richard B ft 5
2020 MAJONS LEGACY (28) (Mrs B C Legh) T Formise 9 ft 5
2020 MAJONS LEGACY (28) (Mrs B C Legh) T Formise 9 ft 5
2020 MAJONS ERACY (28) (Mrs B Legh) T Formise 9 ft 5
2020 MAJERSFORD (25) (D) (Mrs Deck Petter in Nacione 7 ft 0 c
2020 MAJERSFORD (25) (D) (Mrs Deck Petter in Nacione 7 ft 0 c
4PRS2 MASTER MARIO (37) (D) Mrs M A T Potter R Amer 10 ft 0 c
20033 MORDIC SPREE (22) (D) (John T Jones G L Moore 6 ft 2
2033 MAJONIC (Mrs B L Eddiaconte) J Gritori 9 ft 0
2014 TTS A GEM (21) (Mrs B L Eddiaconte) J Gritori 9 ft 0
2015 BALLYGRIFFIN I AD (2) (BP) (Comm) Breen 1 Maddown 9 ft 0

Cheltenham

2.20 Perryman 2.55 Kendal Cavaller

3.30 The Grey Monk

... B Femon B

Brittain's Castle repels big guns

By Richard Edmondson at Newmarket

THE TURF landscape changes during the Craven meeting just as surely as if the Enola Gay was thying over racing's Headquarters. The little boys and girls of the Newmarket work grounds test their credentials on the racetrack for the first time as three-year-olds and most of them fail to justify the high claims made for them. Exclusive sod Jibe, in the Nell Gwyn. Stakes, were yesterday founder members of a club which will have a swolleo membership by tomorrow's eod of play.

These supposed gallop burners were overshadowed appropriately enough, by Cloud Castle, whose trainer, Clive Brittain, has the sort of faith which accompanied Daniel into the lion's den. Brittain's diminutive filly started at 33-1 yesterday, but that did oot prevent her _have not handled the [softish] hopeful guardiao coosideriog her little less than a certainty.

Brittain is out on the Newmarket gallops each day before ping oo his colleagues' kitchen tables. "I'm coming in as they're talk," he said. "I knew my filly surprised me that she's won.

"The gallops is about what they might do and this is the proving ground. This is the only place you find out.".

Cloud Castle was not the most striking in the paddock. season. A second tradition of the in the owners' car park. It was about the Classics. In this inwho rode a treble yesterday, about Capri for the Derby. bothered to get a leg up.

Exclusive, who has supposedly been the first back to the loft following gallops this spring, was difficult to evaluate as, in. true Michael Stoute fashion, she . was shrouded in a blanket.

What we could see was a chestnnt head and white extremities.

Ashraakat took her impressive form to the froot in the carly exchanges. Jibe and Exclusive were tucked in behind. At halfway the latter started to change legs, and looked as though she had swapped them for Boris Yeltsin's. Ashraakat beat off her immediate challengers but then Cloud Castle appeared. Her final thrust was compelling and persuaded bookmakers to cut odds of 66-1 for the 1,000 Guineas to as low as 10-1.

John Reid, her rider, was not interested in thoughts that he might have besteo only inflat-

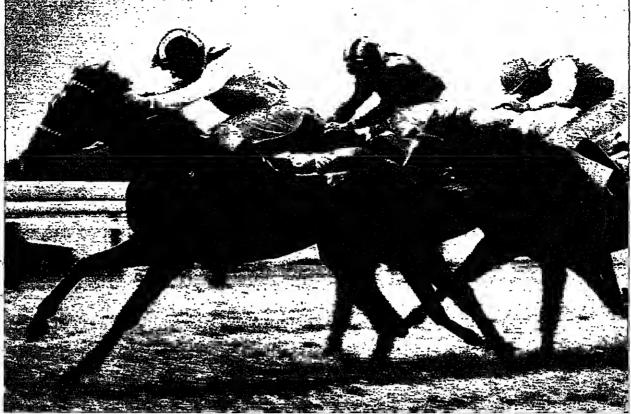
RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Darnaway NB: Ciro's Pearl (Newmarket 3.40)

ed reputations. "They can't all ground and they can't all have been over-hyped," he said. "She beat them fair and square."

Ashraakat, Jibe and Excluthings are snap, crackle and pop-sive, will have, another go oo Guineas day, but-it is hard to disagree with Brittain and imaggoing out so I don't hear much, ine they will improve past his but I never worry about the winner. "I don't see why two weeks from now she shouldn't was good enough to come here be better than she is today." he and run a good race and it hasn't said. People look at animals and judge them oo their size, but you never see the size of the heart. This one's got a heart."

There had been some succour.for Cecil when Capri provided him with his first win this She was one of the smallest, Craven is for the meeting to act though the real tadpole was like a weather house and, when Jibe, Henry Cecil's filly looked . 8 Warren Place runner goes in, like a mascot appropriated from a little bookmaker comes out the the bonnet of something posh other side with a funny price a surprise when Kiereo Fallon, stance, Coral's man went 25-1

1,000 GUINEAS (Neverselver, 3 Mey): Coral: 3-1,Cape Verd, 5-1 Loving Claim, 8-1 Jibe, 12-1 Cloud Castle & Embassy, 14-1 Exclusive, 16-1 Ashasted; Ledherdassy, 14-1 Exclusive, 16-1 Ashasted; Ledherdassy, 12-1 Exclusive, 16-1 Cape Verd, 9-2 Loving Claim, 9-1 Lembassy, 12-1 Jibe, 14-1 Cloud Castle & Crazos Mental; Williams Hill; 5-2 Cape Verd, 5-1 Loving Claim, 10-1 Embassy, 8 Jiba, 12-1 Cloud Castle, 14-1 Ashrasket, 16-1 Crazos Mental; Williams, 16-1 Crazos Mental; 16-1 Crazos Mental



Cloud Castle swoops past Ashraakat and Jibe in yesterday's Nell Gwyn Stakes

2.05: SHEUTERING SKY may be fit enough to wio first time out with John Dunlop's string in such good early-season form. He has the speed for seven furlangs and a low draw was not a disadvantage in another hig-field 7f handicap here yesterday. Darnaway looks dangerous because he has been working at home with some of Heary Cecil's top three-year-olds and should cerrainly be near peak fitness.

NEWMARKET

2.35: This looks destined to be won by SLEEPYTIME. Last year's 1,000 Guineas winner was so impressive when sweeping to victory that day. though her supporters will be praying she does not rediscover her former habit of finding traffic problems even in small fields like today's.

3.10: This contest is likely to be run at a fair clip with usual pace-seriers like Trans Island, from the yard of last year's winning trainer, lan Balding, in the field. It looks to be a very open contest, but the way the

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

race is run could soil NADWAH, successful with a late burst in the Queen Mary Stakes at last year's Raval Ascot meeting. \mathbf{n}

3.40: Many will be focusing on the fortunes here of Top Cees, a controversial fifth in this race in 1995 when it was called the Swallham Handicap. Ciro's Pearl's hails from a stable in top form and this filly certainly has a chance on the basis of his third to Heritage at Royal Ascot last June, PRAIRIE FALCON was in excellent form in the early weeks of last season, including a short-head second to Single Empire

CHELTENHAM 2.20: Kim Bailey's runners are notching up a high wirning strikerate at present and PERRYMAN is

unlikely to let the side down. This Irish point-to-point winner has not been leniently treated following a govice chase win at Ascot two weeks ago, but the manner of that victory indicated high potential

2.55; Druid's Brook was strongly fancied by the Kim Bailey stable to win Monday's Irish Grand Nadonal (3m 5f) but he toppled over at the fourth fence. This lightly raced oine-year-old is certainly one to be feared over extreme distances on soft going. So, however, is the d-jumping KENDAL CAVA-LIER. Rod Millman's charge has won at Chepstow. Cheltenham and Unoxeter this season. His last outing-when pulled-up at Haydock -can be excused because he was a long way out of the handicap.

3.30: THE GREY MONK, whose season has been contailed by allments, can make up for lost time by taking this prize. His main rival i Go Ballistic, and this pair should

Photograph: Julian Herbert/Allsport Newmarket - 3.10 triadien Hero 5-1 5-1 9-2 9-2 9-2 Greentander 5-1 9-2 4-1 6-1 5-1

ises island 32 5-1 5-1 5-1 5-1

Docksider	5-1	1147	5-1	5-1	11-2
Desert Prince	7.2	5-1	13-2	11-2	32
Tracking	<u>6-1</u>	32	61	7-1	7-1
Speedill Top	B-1	9-1	6-1	<u>B-1</u>	9-1
Hardwish	12-1	9.1	1 5-1	9-1	10-1
Pool Music	16-1	141	25-1	16-1	61
C Corat H Ven h	a LLx	b vies	SSZ	ey. T	1
Chelt	enh	am	- 2	55	
Horse		c _	H_	L	} }
Drukt's Brook		5-1	9-2	92	5-1
Torried Propess	-	E1	51	£1	

Horse	C	N		1
Drukt's Brook	5-1	9-2	92	5-1
Torotof Express	5-1	5-1	5-1	4.
Malwood Castle	6-1	7-1	7-1	7-1
Proce Buck	7-1	7-1	7-1	6-1
Forced Promeo	7:1	7.1	_01	7-1
Kendal Obsalier	6-1	6-1	6-1	6-1
Foodbroker Ster	10-1	23	3-1	81
Sounds Strong	12-1	π-1	∏-1	12-1
Thurstal Warder	10-1	11-1	12-1	12-1
Wed Timed	141	n-1	π-1	12-1
Silver Stick	10-1	16-1	16-1	16-1

Each way a fith the outto places 1,23

Newmarket

2.05 SHELTERING SKY (nap) 4.15 Forest Call 4.45 Yellow Ribbon 2.35 Sleepytime 5.20 March Hare GOING! Good to Soft . STALLS: For side DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

GOING: Good to Soft. STALLS: Far side. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Right-hand course with im 21 straight.

Course s SW of town on A30A Bus link from Cambridge and Newmented stations.

ADMISSION: Cub E46 (16 to 25-year-cids 25); Grandstand & Paddock E11 (16 to 25-year-cids 25-50); Silver Ring E3. CAR PARIK: Members £2: remainder free.

LEADING TRAINFRS: H Cecil — 38 wirners from 150 numers (success rate 25.3%);

J Goaden 22 from E52 (14.5%); B Hills: 21 from E4 (10.8%); L Cumarti 18 from E9 (12.8%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: L Deated 56 wins from 321 rides (success rate 17.4%); PM Eddery 45 from 256 (17.8%); R Hills: 25 from 177 (44.%); M Hills: 25 from 238 (10.5%).

FAVOURITES: 198 wins in 589 races (33.8%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

2.05 GRANTCHESTER RATED HANDICAP (CLASS B)

-		Trans and an Property and Solars	RATIN
1	17671-	JO MELL (172) (D) (C H Nowton Jr Ltd) T Easterby 597	Peeller 2 1
2	90040	TURNELEWGED RADGE (200) (U) (Turnblaweed Party) 8 Meeten 5 9 3 M	HIDDRE IS I
3	22005-	LAW COMMISSION (165) (CD) IR Tooth) O Etworth 8 8 2	Number 11 1
4	00000-	HIGHBORN (165) (CD) (talente Pacing Club) P Felgate 9 8 t3 D Sweet	ney (3) 13 1
5	314CG-	CRAIGIEVAR (214) (D) (BF) (D I Russell) J Farsteine 46 3 W R Se	richteurn 10 1
6	00253-	CRUMPTON HILL (2003 ED) (T H Chardney) N Graftern 8 8 72:	T Quitar 5 7
7	1532-	LATALONNE (USA) (198) (Maktoure Al Maktoure) € Duntop 4 8 Ti	C Densy 6
8	4:321-	DARNAWAY (218) (D) (Sr David Wits) H Good 4 8 10	Fallon 14 1
9.	73016-	SHOWBOAT (214) (D) IR O Holingsworth B Han 4 8B	Hallman 1
10	1-6100	GULF SHAADI (18) (C) (D) (Bibby Helicity Perip) E Alston 688	Sanders 2 1
TI	7614	JORGOCKS (USA) (198) (C) (SF) (P Mellon) Balting 488	Demon 10 1
E	1771.5	MIDVEN CALL COD & GRECO M Sel 485.	3 Head 17.1
ซ	5606-	WARNINGFORD (258) (D) (Bartord Bloodstock II) J Paratone 4 8 8 O)	terrison 77
14	1220E-	MO EXTRAS (173) IX Higson) G L Moore 885	MOTHE D
15	40305-	RACHELORS PAD (163) (Mrs D N Allen) W Jarves 4 5 4	HYMN 15 I
6	61253	SHEITERING SICY 1779 (CI) Of Sebrana) J Dunico 4 8 4	Eddery 4 1
15	65-30 0	MILLOWA (13) (0) (J O Graham) R Hollestrand 4 8 4	Milry (5) 1

Minimum weight, 8st 4lb. The heridical weights Shehtering Sky 8st 2th, Mujord 7st 7b

Minimum weight, 8st 4lb. The heridical weights Shehtering Sky 8st 2th, Mujord 7st 7b

BETTING: 6-1 Shehtering Sky, 7-1 Demanusy, Jornocks, 6-1 do Melt, 9-1 Galf Sheadd, 10-1 Champton Hill, Labridome, 12-1 Mulyan Cdi, Showbook, 6-1 do Melt, 9-1 Galf Sheadd, 10-1 Champton Hill, Labridome, 12-1 Mulyan Cdi, Showbook III Tumbhaweed Hiliga, 4-6-1 Chalgewis, 16-1 others 3gr. Chickercha 6-8-6-7 Sprake 23-1 (8 Palang) chawn (n) 3f ran

FORM GUIDE

DARNAWAY, third to Showed in a malden on this card test year and a winner over todays trip at Lingfield test September, will take some beating in his first handleng Guild Shaedd in sharp after an all-weather winner or un in the Lincoln, while Sheathering Sky won his mastlen with out in the ground at Haydholt and ran head in handlenge over the trip afterwards. Jo Melt had an Ascort handleng win to his name and conditions race success from Swiss Law at Doncester. A 12th rise for the Ascott win may put him out of court, but this hindicap is not that strong and Crumpton Hill, the three-length third at Ascott has not strong the form. Showthout tolored a Sassbury conditions race win with a credinable showing in the Goodhrood handleap won by Law Continuesion. He is the type to improve as a four-year-old, Jornocks loved the soft ground when he best Marjuen to improve as a four-year-old, Jornocks loved the soft ground when he best Marjuen to improve as a four-year-old. Jornocks loved the soft ground when he best Marjuen to improve as a four-year-old. Jornocks loved the soft ground when he best Marjuen to improve as a four-year-old. Jornocks loved the soft ground when he best Marjuen to improve as a four-year-old. Jornocks loved the soft ground when he best Marjuen to improve as a four-year-old. Jornocks loved the soft ground when he best Marjuen to improve as a four-year-old. Jornocks loved the soft ground when he best Marjuen to improve as a four-year-old. Jornocks loved the soft ground while the dec

2.35 WEATHERBYS EARL OF SEFTON STAKES CA (GROUP 3) (CLASS A) £35,000 added

1ng 1f Penalty Value £20,000

3.55 SLEPYTHE (301) (C) (SF) (Greenly Subles H Cod 49 1 KFallon 2 124

2.200 ALMISHTARAK (179) (Farred Al-Autene) K Methol 5 8 3 R Codward 110

3.151 ALEZA (166) H Spooney W James 2 8 10 Roll Eddery 4 107

5.501 APPREHENSION £13, Shelft Michaemed D Lode 4 8 10 D Holland 1 112

5.3025 GREEN CARD RUSA (180) (F K) Clay S Woods 4 8 10 D Holland 1 112

5.3025 GREEN CARD RUSA (180) (F K) Clay S Woods 4 8 10 D Holland 1 112

5.3025 SAPTILLANA (183) (177) (C) (D) (Shelft Michaemed J Gooden 58 10 D Holland 6 715

7.302 SAPTILLANA (183) (Caledonen Rising Scotty) D Esworth 48 7 S Drowne 3 115

For India S S Shepptime, 4-1 About, Santiflens, 9-1 Green Card, 10-1 Almostiturati, Supercal, 14-1 Apprehension

Apprehension : Sept. AA-Royal 4 9 12 K Falico 11-4 tax (H Cecil) circum (S) 11 nan .

FORM GUIDE

The four-length Guinass winner Steepythre was an unlucky loser on her first run last term when fourth to Dance-Perade at Newbury. She did win first time up as impressive testion as a juvenile at Sandown and she is going to be hard to beat. However, John Goeden's cost SANTILLANA gots she and has shown decent from when trish. A winner from Zuguki and Sandown or Citambray here in October on a tream from a long besence, Santilizate then tailed to cope with terrible ground in a Group One race in Italy. A useful sort at triver, Santilizate at the value but. The others took out of their depth, though Green Card could be the type to do before and is preferred to the hardcapper Asset Animathemic grand a big-pince win from Decorated hiero at Doncaster last September and has more chance of causing another upper than Apprehension.

Selection: SANTILLANA

•		
[3.10	NGK SPARK PLUGS EURDPEAN FREE HANDICAP (LISTED) (CLASS A) £30,000 added 3YO 7/ Penelty Value £17,150
1	922	DOCKSIDER (USA) (215) (II) (F Benetock J His 97 118 His 5 100
2	· 577H-	APKADIAN HERO (195) (BF) (Rebot/Magner) L. Cumart 9.7
3	1254	DESERT PRINCE (179) (Luczyen Studi O Loder 95
4	T221	TRACKING (184) (D) (Cuderant Oak Holdings) H Cool 85
5	623	SPEEDET TOO (207) (J Guest) G Margarson 93 G Carter 9 112
8	306-	NADWAH (USA) (197) (Harridan Al Maksoum) P Wabrym 9 3
-	E-ACTUAL S	POOR ESTINATION (STATE OF CONTRACT OF CONT

[3.	40	BABRAHAM HANDICAP (CLASS C) EB,000 added C4
- 1		SERTA.	TOP CEES (J26) (BF) (R E Sargulat) Mrs J Remoter 6 100 O Secondy (3) 17 27
	,	50941/	HENRY ISLAND (536) (D) (H H Morres) G Vinog 58 12
3		166-1	LARCESSE (15) (II) Mrs F Mossiower John Berry 498
- 4	٠.	70	DIAMOND PLANE (25) (The Denong Dozen) P Harris 4 96
3		SOAC.	GENERAL ASSEMBLY LITSI (The Contented G Margarson 6 9 6 G Carter 10 82)
		1063D-	HOH EXPRESS (JSC) (D) (Patrum Syndicals) Mrs J Ramsden 6 9 5 O Pester 18 55
7		200	SALAMAH (200) (K Abduleh) R Charles 494
. 8	1 :	330-36	BARDON HILL BOY (27) (Miss Al Beein) B Harbury 6 93 M J Kinere 16 94
-	1	03100-	DOCKLANDS LINO (215) (D) (BP) (Mr. L Cley) B McMath 593 O Harrison 2 98
1	0	0624	INVERMIARK (158) (Sr Dead Wile) J Parshave 483
1	n	5000-	PRABUE FALCON (173) (D) (Lack Herrson) 6 HB 49 1 16 HBs 22 103
. 1	2	2514	JAWAH (150) (BF) (Herrad Al-Hucana) K Natrol 4 8 S
1	2	Om4	RAISE A PRINCE (FR) (127) (II) (G Rong) S Woods 5 8 12
1	4 3	DECK.	HEART OF ARBIOR 2005 EDI LIS GLIDAN P Cole 4 5 TI
1	5 3	230-00	SECRET BALLOT (6) (D) (Valend Al-Marant) K Mahd 4 8 TO L Dedort 1 87
1		32135	DEAD ANA (200) (C) (A) Muslim Partnership) Belding 489
1	7 1	COM CO	CODENA BUIES: AS AFT ASS (A P CASTON MASS & KARPARY 7 B C A MCCOSTON 45) 4 95
. 1		0.6813	DEBAHAN (IJSA) (20) (IJ) (IBF) (Me Jan Pleicher) E Album 4 6 i Problemon 11 90
. 1	q s	LINDAL.	CHRO'S PEARL (174) (II) LIN SPECTION IN COMPANY 4 87 ENGIN 20 105
2	20	OLCI	MARIK (JNS) (D) (Best Beech Partnership) G L Moore 4 84
2	1 (1530-0	MYSTIC REGE (20) (P Byrne) 8 Ourley 4 82
	2 :	क्ष्य थ	PRUME (7) (0) (0 Leach) J Pages 57 TI (404)
2	3 (10360	TEMPTRESS (124) (D) (P Barrett J L Horts 5 7 TO J Branch 12 73

Minimum weight: 7st 10tb. True handicep weight: Perspares 7st 5tb.
8ETTING: 3-1 Not Express, 10-1 Largesse, 11-1 Top Cees, 12-1 Docklande Lims, F.
Jinwelt, 14-1 Gro's Pearl, Deed Aim, Prainte Falcon, Heart Of Armor, 16-1 others

FORM GUIDE

PRAIRIE FALCON is from a stable with a fine record with handicappers here and shaped with when a 10-length minth to Far Ahead in the Ebot. Top Crees won the Coral Cup at Cheherham but faces a huge task here under 10st. His stablemets his has better chance after hunde nuns. Largessee has been bumped up 910 for winning a weak race at Nottinghem, while all-weather winner Dismond Figme is hard to assess on turt. General Assembly, disappointing over hunders, is from a strivery gard. The recent Ripon writer Fillal is in with a strout, while Jawath improved last season to win at Doncaster and Nottingham and is the type to go well over this trip.

Selection: PRAIRIE FALCON

1 1	5	GEDFFREY BARLING MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 26,000 added 3YO fillies 7f Penalty Value £5,127
7.1	_	£6,000 added 3YO fillies 7f Penalty Value £5,127
		ACIDANTHERA (Lord Halista) J Forshave 5 11
,		ALONA DANCER UR Flemma BHBs BT
3		ALTAWEELAH (Stelan Armed Al Melabum) L. Curren B.T Demon 14
ž		A TOUCH OF FROST (Mrs. P. J. Williams) G. Marqueson B. 11
5		COME UP SWILING (USA) (Martourn Al Makeourn) E Dunlop 8 11 D Pessier 17
5	O-	EFODOS (170) (L. Marropoulos) G Wragg B 11
7	-	EMPLANE (USA) IK Abdushi) H Ceci B TI K Fellon 4
5		FOREST CALL (A E Opportement & Wragg & n
2		GOLD MIST (J National R Ametrong 8 F R Price 15
10		KAAJRA (Shekh Ahmed Al Makkum) M Jarvs 8 T P Robinson 7
77		JINSTYAH (USA) (Herndan Al Makroum) 8 Honoury 9 7
C		LAMANKA LASS (USA) (D Bucheran) H Coct B Ti
3		LAST REPUTATION (R E Sangstar) 8 Hills 8 Ti
14	2.	LOYERS KNOT (165) (BF) (Chaveley Park Stud) M Stoute 8 ti W R Swinburn 5
15		OLD TRADITION (Maktourn Al Maktourn) E Duniop 6 11
15	0	PLAYGROUP (165) (Lord Howard De Watden) Wrs J Cecil 3 ft
•		WILTANA II arts Retherbirth 1 & Smarth Osters one 8 Y

34	MEDEC	S 2450 B to 71 Hz? 1-9 liby (in usufd) (in issue (i.) 5 libe
4	.45	NGK SPARK PLUGS BARTLOW MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 26,000 added 2YD fillies 5f Pensity Value £4,230
1		ACICULA P D Savij M Johnston & T O Probler 5
2	43	BUNTY (13) (John Purcel) C Dwyer 6 Ti
3		CALANDO (USA) (Shekh Mozenmer) D Lader B 11 L Dethori 9
1	3	DANIALIS (20) (L Ferguson) E Alston B TI
5		NORY'S PROMISE ID wory K hory 8 11
5		JIC RH Prince Field Steman F Cole & Ti
•		NOM FRANÇAIS (M 5.82) Dr. J Scarpi B TI K Darley 2
•	6	WESTSIDE PLYER (20) [K Hudson) A Kelloway II 11 A McCamby (5) 8
9		YELLOW RIBBON (A N Fosse) 9 HBs 6 T

Lackes o u F needs 2-1 (H poss) manu (a) a u	34
20 WOOD DITTON STAKES 1m Penalty Value 25,754	(CLASS D) £7,000 edded 3YO
ALYRIVA (USA) (Shekti Michemined) O'L	oder 9 0 D Hofland 8
BREVITY IK Abdulate J Gozden 9 0	L Detion 9
DIDIFON IK Abdulati H Cac2 9 0	A McGlone 4
	poratorii C Britain 9 0 D Pester 19
	Balding 9 0 R Cochrane 1
	W R Swinburn 8
	Currers 9 0 O Urbina 18
	tourn) E Durstop 9 0 K Darley 2
PERMINENTIARE AS POSSESS & Harrion	9 D Dens D'Neill 10
SECRET RAVER (1921) (Report School) M	Seura 9 0 J Reid 16
SMARR RANGENT Colvertionner Marri	nost M Stour 90 M J Kimane 12
TERRAN AND AND KNOW I COMMON OF	R Firench 7
TACK ENDER (2 Decreit & Wheel & O	N Day 5
THE EDITION (These edited Depositor)	H Ceci 90 K Fallon 14
TITANI BE TRANSPER NA E IN COMPANIO	ni 5 Meenan 90 7 Outon 15
WINOTI E TEST IN C. Service C. Whoste D. O.	Martin Dayer 17
HARPY MARK A and Market 1 Duration 8	Pat Eddery 11
OF FEEE ME I PLANT CHEE CO	S Sanders 21
DE IARIY WON AU I CARRY S LIN SO	R Hills 5
THE ERNOEV RICH RE- LET Code (I)	HIS 89 M HIS 20
THE SPILET IS GOOD WITH A CONTROL OF	Comment & Card 49 Without 15

5.00 PONTEFRACT PARK FILLIES HANDICAP

BETTING: 8-15 The Grey Monk, 11-2 Bo Ballistic, 6-1 Peto The Parson, 15-2 Pimberley Place, 12-1 fortishine Gale 1937 Stong Promps 6-11 7 N Wilemson 4-5 lav (G Hubbard) 4 fran PORM GUIDE THE GREY MONK has his ground and a effective as shorter trips like this despite staying further, so he will be difficult to beat. After impressing in beating Rough Cuest on his return in Haydock's Torring Whatte, he could finish only a well-beatin third to Escartifique in Austree's Martell Cop. but he ran well until lack of larress tool and will be difficult to beat. Go Ballistic, who upset Strong Promise at Windanton, would be a danger of the ground was faster, but he was well beaten in the Gold Cop (finishing behind Vortashine Gale) and is hard to tancy Pete The Parson was beaten just a short-head by Papalion here on his last run in January. The form looks good with Papalion going so close unifer 12st in the first Grand National and, with conditions in his tarkout. Place The Parson may be the one to benefit if The Grey Monk falls to fire. Plimborley Place is taking a huge step up in class. 4.00 MITTE GROUP NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £7,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £5,448 4.00 D) £7,000 added 3m 110yds Penaity Value £5,448 1.3030 SWEET LORD (28) || S Networking Solicons) M Bradistick 7 to 0 G Bradley 1.3033 BRAMSHAW WOOD (19) (Mrs U Warrentrigh, P Networking A Ahre 6 to 8 A Thomston 2.5702 GAMPATI (19) (The Central Patriaterish) P Networking Patriater 3 to 7.500 ROVAL ARCTIC CS) (D) (T D J Syder) S Malor B Ti 5. C Webb (3) 02290 BCDD (14) (B) U Rysul 7 to 4. Million 1.5 C Webb (3) 02290 BCDD (14) (B) U Rysul 7 to 4. Million 1.5 C Webb (3) 02290 BCDD (14) (B) U Rysul 7 to 4. Million 1.5 C Webb (3) 02290 BCDD (14) (B) U Rysul 7 to 4. Million 6 C Webb (3) P Notes 6 to 7. Million 1. J Culledy Modern 5 to 7. Million 1. J Culledy B O4022 BAVARDIRE (22) (B) (Boarder Patriater) G Balding 7 to 1. B Fox 9 0005 SAMARTY (28) (Mrs Y Grown) Mre J Primar 5 to 1 C Ramol 9 0005 SAMARTY (28) (Mrs T Brown) Mre J Primar 5 to 1 C Ramol 9 0005 SAMARTY (28) (Mrs T Brown) Mre J Primar 5 to 1 C Ramol 9 0005 SAMARTY (28) (Mrs T Brown) Mre J Primar 5 to 1 C Ramol 9 0005 SAMARTY (28) (Mrs T Brown) Mre J Primar 5 to 1 C Ramol 9 0005 SAMARTY (28) (Mrs T Brown) Mre J Primar 5 to 1 C Ramol 9 0005 SAMARTY (28) (Mrs T Brown) Mre J Primar 5 to 1 C Ramol 9 0005 SAMARTY (28) (Mrs T Brown) J Gritord 5 to 10 to 1 C Ramol 9 0005 SAMARTY (28) (Mrs T Brown) Mre J Primar 5 to 0 Mre J Repearable 1 Primar 5 to

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	4	.35	SWAN NATIONAL NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLAS) E) £4,000 added 2m 1f Penetty Value £3,178
ı	1	463	PADDY'S STORM (66) (Mass V Markowsk) 5 Dow 6 11 17 J. R Keveragh
	2	54R1R0	CABALLUS (USA) (22) (Salamm Racing) Mrs J Phiman 5 11 10 O Leet
ì	ã	(1P442	ELUSIVE STAR (12) (W Grazel) Mrs M Reveley 8 Tl 3
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į	7		SHEILAS DREAM (13) (D) (George Seatle) H Home 5 TO 8
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5-10 MINSTER LOVELL HURDLE (CLASS B) £9.000 added 2m 5f 110yds Penalty Value £6,244 565000 ALLEGATION (28) (C) (D) Martin Pioe Razon Calo IM Pioe 8 Ti 0 ... J Entime V 179202 BROWNES HILL LAD (28) (Mrs B Marchan) R O'Sulvan 8 Ti 0 ... N Williamson D-02P21 FOUNTAIN BID (9) (R Dearn) R Dean 6 Ti 0 ... J Goldstein 27F64 MULLIGAN (12) (D) (Laby Harris 10 Narbotson 8 Ti 0 ... A Minguise Psum THE PROMS (13) (D) (Mrs J Moust) N Toriston-Cause 7 Ti 0 ... C Lieurellyn

- 5 decisred -BETTING: 5-4 The Proms, 7-4 Multigan, 11-2 Atlagation, 10-1 Brownes Hill Lad, 14-1 Founts 1997: Protect 7 TI B R Durwoody 1-8 fav (M Pipe) 2 ran

Delphi wins

Power Cup DELPHI LODGE left behind

his poor display at Cheltenham. when 12th in the Arkle Trophy, by landing the £35,000 Power Gold Cup for Tom Tasffe at Fairyhouse yesterday. Patiently riddeo by Tommy Treacy, Delphi Lodge worked through the field to outspeed Tempo.



Pontefract 2.45 Sammai 3.20 Pine Ridge Lad 3.50 Rear Window 4.25 Noble Demand 5.00 Kustom Katle 5.30 GOING: Good to Selt (Good in places), STALLS: Incide. GOING: Good to Selt (Good it places), STALLS: Incide DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low usually pest up to one mile.

• Left-frame, undulating course.

• Course is the NW of crise on A639 ADMISSION: Club STE; Paddock SS, Siner Reng E350 CAR PARK: Third fring, per with four occupants, S4, plus T2 of turnsides, remainder free.

• LEADING THANNERS: Mrs J Ramaden 35-59 (85%), J Dunlop G-16 (83%), J L Eyre S-131, (37%), J Bakding th-48 (229%)

• LEADING JOCKEYS: J Fortune 15-58 (07%), J Wenver 13-20 (105%), J Cornell T-100 (92%), J Quiters 8-84 (93%).

• FAVOURITIES: 84 with from 509 (ac6s (80%)).

SLINKERCO FIRST TIME: Break The Rules (350).

2.45 STRAWBERRY HILL MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (E) £4,000 ZYD ST

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PETUCHINO R Johnson Houghton 8 9 G Duffield 14
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TAMPA LADY (TI) M Johnson 6 9 MR Roberts 12
WESTWOOD YEW J J Curr 8 9 J Portune 5 - 17 decigned BETTING: 7-2 Tampa Lady, 5-1 Semured, Ace OI Perkes, 5-1 Petachino, 10-1 Bollin Rila, Springs Mobilepuset, 12-1 Westwood View, 14-1 others 3.20 OSSETT SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS F) 23,000 added 1m | Care | Pink Proce | Lab (19) | Lab (19) | Section | Care | Pink Proce | Lab (19) | Lab (19) | Section | Care | C

3.50 RICHARD BLAKEY BENEFIT HANDICAP (CLASS E) \$4,000 added 1m 2f -0030 BREAKTHE RILES (16 CC) DNC 05 6 CC P Robert (37 8 1 +0030 SREAK THE RALES (OS CO I) O Nortols 6 to 0 P Roberts (S) 7 8
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6 5001- BURRERI (145) A Certain 4 9 5 Use 1 September 1 1 September 1 September 1 1 September 1

4.25 WEFT GATE LIMITED STAKES (CLASS D) 25,000 added 3YO 1m 14 PRINTERNATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER BETTONC: 5-2 Noble Demand, 7-2 White Mean, See Marks, 4-1 Benevertus, Hardite

5.30 LADY BALK MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 2f - 11 declared -BETTING: 3-1 Redbridge, T-2 Sorani, 9-2 Majeste, Hills, 5-1 Kald, 6-1 Sb var Sabre, 5-1 The Wild Wildow, 14-1 Zobalda, 33-1 others

Wenger blend gives Arsenal an edge *

ONLY five weeks have passed since Roy Hodgson made what he considered to be a realistic assessment of the Premiership's summit, Blackburn could not catch Manchester United, he said in the aftermath of a defeat at Leeds, but he believed his side were good enough to beat

should he? At the time Arsene ephemeral. A good cup team and champions in a few seasons maybe. but this year? Perhaps when they get strength in depth.

That is the great paradox of this Europe, never mind the Premiership. they have been worn down to a position where they look almost threadbare. Arsenal have either extracted a last fling out of the aged or made polished gems out of uncut stones.

Points (games played)

43 (19)

46 (20)

46 (21)

49 (22)

49 (23)

49 (24)

50 (25)

53 (26)

56 (27)

59 (28)

60 (30)

60 (3I)

63 (32)

66 (33)

67 (34)

Aston Villa (h)

Newcastle (a)

Everton (h)

Coventry (a)

Leicester (h)

Aston Villa (a)

Bolton (h)

Derby (h)

Chelsea (a)

Sheff Wed (a)

West Ham (a)

Wimbledon (h)

Blackburn (a)

Liverpool (h)

Newcastle (h)

C Palace (a)

Leeds (h)

Barnsley (a)

Premiership leaders

13 December 1997

Arsenal (h)

Tottenham (h)

Southampton (a)

Arsenal, I3 points behind United on Boxing Day, are now favourites for the title. Guy Hodgson on a shift in power

Nicolas Anelka, Christopher Wreh, Remi Garde, Gilles Grimandi and even Ray Parlour were. No mention of Arsenal and why with the possible exception of Wenger, no one's idea of members Wenger's side had embarked on a of a championship-winning team last charge that has taken them to the August, yet all have made substanshoulders of United but few ex- tial contributions to a run that has pected it to be anything more than taken them to within a point of United with two games in hand.

The champions look tired and their few victories are being cut away from a pile of exhausted mediocrity, while Arsenal are vibrant. This time season. Whereas Manchester Unit- last season United were producing ed appeared to have a squad fit for performances that had "title" written all over them - their win at Anfield being a classic example - now the Gunners have the dynamic. There was an undeniable shift of power in the 4-1 crushing of Blackburn on Ewood Park on Monday.

I3 Dec

15 Dec

21 Dec

26 Dec

28 Dec

10 Jan

17 Jan

19 Jan

31 Jan

7 Feb

8 Feb

18 Feb

21 Feb

28 Feb

2 Mar

7 Mar

II Mar

14 Mar

28 Mar

31 Mar

6 Apr

10 Apr

II Apr

13 Apr

18 Apr

25 Apr

27 Apr

29 Apr

3 May

4 May

6 May

10 May

Today

Blackburn (h)

Leicester (h)

Tottenham (a)

Coventry (a)

Southampton (h) W 3-0

Wimbledon (a) W 1-0

Leeds (h)

Chelsea (h)

C Palace (h)

West Ham (a)

Man United (a)

Sheff Wed (h)

Newcastle (h)

Blackburn (a)

Barnsley (a)

Derby (h)

Everton (h)

Liverpool (a)

Aston Villa (a)

Premiership leaders

Wimbledon (h)

Bolton (a)

The Gunners' four-month charge towards the title

Manchester United v Arsenal

W 1-0

W 1-0

W 2-0

L 2-3

L 0-1

W 2-0

W 2-0

W 1-0

D |-|

L 0-1

W 3-1

points ahead of Arsenal, now that lead is down to one point and although Wenger dismisses any talk of heing favourites, it would take, in Alex Ferguson's words "a Devon Loch" to stop them now.

end of the season, May 10," a characteristically cautious Wenger said. "You can play like champions one day and be like beginners the next. The most consistent team will win the title and we have to go on repeating the performance that we produced at Blackburn."

Wenger admitted to some apprehension before Monday's match. Arsenal's last Premiership defeat came on 13 December when Blackburn defeated them 3-1 at Highbury and the manager feared that men-

Points (games played)

W 2-1

D 0-0

W 1-0

₩ 1-0

W 3-1

L 1-3 30 (18)

33 (19)

34 (20)

37 (2i)

38 (22)

41 (23)

47 (25)

48 (26)

54 (28)

57 (29)

60 (30)

63 (3I)

tal scars might be opened by the anxiety to do well.

He need not have worried. Dennis Bergkamp scored after 75 seconds and Parlour added two more so that before 13 minutes had gone the On Boxing Day, United were 13 match was beyond Blackburn's recovery. "It was," Emmanuel Petit said. "our best performance of the season."

Wenger added: "Surprisingly the team are happy but not crazy at all, they are realistic. They think they have done well, have done their job "We judge the champions at the and no more. They know they have to repeat it.

"It might seem funny to say it now but on Saturday we had four games in hand and were seven points behind and, as you say in England, we were under pressure to win the games. I tried to focus the team on what we had to do."

That focus, Wenger concedes, is easier to achieve because the Arsenal dressing-room is packed with old sages who have been here before. Monday's team contained four relies from the 1990 championship team while Bergkamp and Marc Overmars have won titles on the Continent.

"At the moment we have a good blend of young and old," Wenger said. "All the experienced players are very important in these moments. They are all playing well and they provide an example by keeping their feet on the earth.

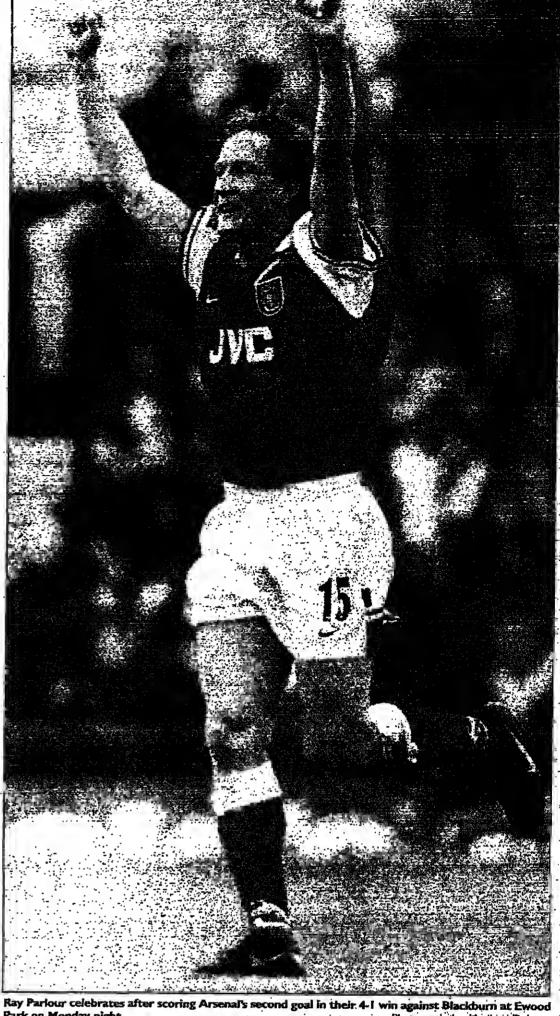
Old and new, foreign and domestic, Wenger has brought about a potent amalgam, which is stronger as a whole than in parts. Arsenal have had to do without nearly all of their key players at some point this season and, but for a wayward spell that climaxed with Blackburn's win at Highbury, they have weathered their absence well.

They have improved as the season has gone on too. When they heat Manchester United at Highbury in November it required three exceptional goals to beat the champions, who dominated the first half. Last month it was United who were looking for the extraordinary as Arsenal were comprehensively the better team at Old Trafford.

No one personifies that improvement more than Parlour who was a runner and a tackler before Wenger got his hands on him and now is as good a right flank player as you will find in the Premiership. At one time he and David Beckham could not have been seriously spoken of in the same breath but, while be does not command the same passing ability of the United and England player, there is little doubt as to who is currently the more effective."

On Monday night Hodgson had adjusted his opinion from five weeks ago. "Arsenal are in the driving seat," he said, oping word perfectly what Alex Ferguson had said on Good

The difference was that there was no kidology or psychological baggage attached to the Blackburn manager's words. He meant it.



Photograph: Ian Hodgson/Reuters

Bramley back accused of racist abuse

Rugby League By Dave Hadfield

THE BRAMLEY full-back. Anthony Gibbons, has become the first player to be sent off for allegedly racially abusing an opponent. Gibbons was dismissed by the referce. Nick Oddy, after an altercation with Doncaster's Alex Goulbourne during the Second Division match at Headingley on Monday.

Both the club and the League's director of referees. Geoff Berry, said that they were awaiting Oddy's report on the incident. Because it took place on Monday, it will not be dealt with until a disciplinary hearing on Thursday next week, along with three sendings-off and a mass brawl in the match between Featherstone and Keighley, Emharrassingly, that is just

press conference involving the it can be arranged. League and the Commission for Racial Equality, aimed at underlining the game's anti-racist

The First and Second Division clubs (Fasda) have declared the League's draft agreement with Super League "totally unacceptable". A meeting of the clubs decided unanimously that a "who does what" deal between the two bodies was a threat to their interests.

"There were serious concerns that the board of directors intended to conclude an agreement without consultation with Fusda," said a statement.

The meeting did not take a threatened vote of no confidence in the League's chief executive. Neil Tunnieliffe, and its chairman. Sir Rodney Walker. but both will be asked to anoth-

five days before a scheduled er meeting of Fasda as soon as

The clubs are worned that the proposed agreement hands over responsibility for a series of matters, including negotiating a new contract with Sky, to Super League, prompting fears of a "sell-out". The League, however, says that the draft was to be discussed by the game as a whole and that it welcomes the opportunity for Walker and

Tunnicliffe to speak to Fasda. The London Broncos have been hit by an injunction from their local council, preventing them from using the floodlights at The Stoop for Sunday night's televised match against Warrington. Their landlords. Harlequins, have failed to get planning permission for the lights. The bizarre solution is for the Broncos to install temporary lights instead, so the game can

go ahead at its scheduled kickoff time of 6.35pm.

London have denied any interest in re-signing Shaun Edwards, the scrum-half they sold to Bradford during the winter. Edwards has not settled at Odsal and has been linked with possible return to Wigan.

The coach of Rochdale Hornets. Shane Tupaea, and his assistant. Tony Morrison, have resigned following the defeat at Leigh that plunged them to the foot of the First Division on Monday night. Chris Deakin and lan McCorquodale are taking charge temporarily, but Eric Hughes - sacked by Wigan last November - is already being linked with the job.

Paul Highton who is on loan to Featherstone, has been made a free agent after Halifax's withdrawal of a contract

Fed Cup blow to Britain

Tennis

BRITAIN'S hopes of regaining a place in the World Group of the Fed Cup suffered a severe blow when they lost their opening group match in the Europe/Africa Zone in La Manga. Spain. yesterday.

The British women were beaten 2-1 by Portugal in Pool B and now must win their re maining group matches against Poland today and Madagascar tomorrow to remain in con-

Only the top two teams from each of four groups go through to the next stage on Friday when the eight survivors will play-off for two places in the World Group qualifying round

Edinburgh club expected to join league

Basketball By Richard Taylor

THE Budweiser League's southem-based clubs face an even longer trek than to Newcastle next season, with the prospect of

an Edinburgh franchise being admitted to the competition.

Today's fixtures

SEMI-FINALS SECOND-Les
Monaco (1) v Juventus (4) (7.45)
Monaco (1) v Juventus (4) (7.45)
B Dortmand (0) v Real Medind (2) (7.45)
GM VALUGHALL CONFERENCE
Dover v Kettering (7.45)
Slough v Leek Rown (7.45)
Southport v Chetterthern (7.45)
Southport v Chetterthern (7.45)

The league's chief executive. Mike Smith, confirmed: "We have agreed to award a franchise for a team to compete at

ing a satisfactory business plan." Although the new franchise will represent a comparatively local derby for Newcastle Eagles,

the new fixture poses added mileage and expense for clubs based as far south as Worthing. Crystal Palace, Watford, Thames Valley Tigers and the London duo Towers and Leopards.

But the league will not assist in meeting the extra costs involved. Smith said: "All the cur-

Meadowbank, subject to agreerent league clubs agreed with having a franchise in Scotland."

In fact, Palace, Worthing and . Watford will welcome the chance to play in Edinburgh next season as their places in the competition are under threat after filling the bottom three positions.

Smith said: "Our rules stipulate that the status of the bottom three clubs is reviewed before a decision is taken as to whether they can play the following season."



v Torbridge.

UNILET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Languey Sports v Burgetis Hill UNILSPORT (INITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division: Buckingham v Woothon; Cogerhoe v Speking; Potton v St Neots, HORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division; Atherion Collectes v Kidegrove;

INTERLINK EXPRESS MEDLAND AL-LIANCE Kings Norton v Pershöre; Stapen-hill v Willenheit. hill v Willenheit.
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN
LEAGUE First Division: Crock v Pennin;
Durham City v RTM Newcastle; Jerrow Roding v Mittor (Stor, Law v Sestiann Red Star,
Lasguet Cup sensitinals: South Shields v
Dunston Pederation.

Atherton LR v Newcastle Town; Derwen v Citizeros; Glossop North End v Checklerton; Hestingden v St Helens; Remebation v Holiv-er Old Boys.

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Great Yarmouth v Diss.

Duniston Federation. LEAGUE OF WALES: Conwy v Caemarton Town; Combran v Ebbw Vale; First Town v Bangor City. THE THEES FA YOUTH CUP Semi-final second leg: Peterborough (0) v Blackburn

(at Leigh RM RC); Port Vale v Grimsby (70).
Second Division: Biscignol v Certisle (73);
Rochale v Strawsbury (73). Third Division:
Bury v Wilgen; Newcastle v Scarborough (73)
(at Gatesbeed FC).
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION Pirst.
Division: Charlton v Portsmouth (20); Crystal Palace v Milwell (20) (at Priough Lane);
towich v Luton (73); Southermoton v West
Hatm (at Stablewood FC). Thirdshire Ham (et Staplewood | Swindon (et Leyton-Orit

Rugby Union

Speedway ELITE LEAGUE: Kings Lynn v Wolver-hampton (745). SPEEDWAY STAR CUP: Poole v Eastbourne (730). MIER LEAGUE CUP: Hui v Edinburgh

Weekend fixtures and pools forecast

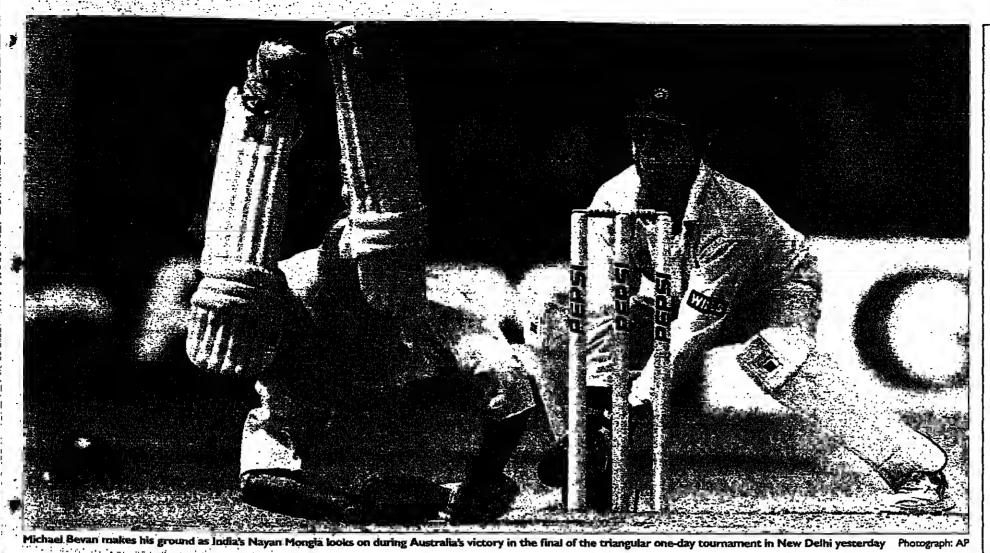
FA Carling Premiership 1 Bamsley v lotterham 1 Barnsley v Tottermann 2 Botton v Leeds 3 Crystal Palece v Derby County... Crystal raince Eventor v Leicuster Southempton v Aston Ville Windson: Chelses v Sheffeld Wednes-iny: Coverny v Liverpool. Paying Manday: Man Uld v Newcestle. Nationwide Football League

Nationwide Football League
First Division
7 Brininghen v Swindon
8 Charlton v Fortsmuth
9 Charlton v Fortsmuth
10 Industrield v West Brom
10 Industrield v Visaunore
11 Oxford Utd v Traunore
12 Sheffield Utd v Broy
13 Stockpor' v North Forest
14 Stoke v Norwch
15 Sunderland v Crewe
15 Swinderland v Crewe
16 Workes v Reading
Playing Friday, Maddissbrough v Men City,
Playing Sunder, Baddind City v QPR. Second Division

20 Galingham v Wresham 21 Plymouth v Nonheapton 22 Preston v Starkpool 23 Wycombe v Milwell ... 24 York v Southwork Also playing (not on coupons): Burni Fulhern, Walesil v Olchern. Playing Sonday: Auto Windonal: Grimsby v Bournermuth Third Division 1 hieral Division
25 Barnet v Scarborough
25 Carribridge Unibad v Swar
27 Cardiff v Micodesfield
28 Chester v Colchester
28 Hull City v Leyton Orber
30 Limotic v Pelestorough
31 Mansfield v Hardspool
29 Maria County v Tyru sy

32 Notes County v Torquey. 33 Rochdale v Exister 34 Rotherham v Doncaster. 35 Scusthorpe v Darlington 36 Shrewsbury v Brigh Bell's Scottish League Also playing (not on coupons): Abardo v Pancers. First Division 41 Airche v Morton 42 Dundee v Ayr United 43 St Mirren v Partick 44 Stirling v Partick Also playing (not on cour v Faldrik, Second Division 45 East Fife v Clydebank 46 Forfar v Chaen of the South 47 Ukingson v Brechn 48 Stanhousemuk v Clyrie





FA to probe Cup final ticket rip-offs

THE Football Association have said it will bivestigate allegations that FA Cup final tickets are being sold at exorbitant prices. Advertisements have appeared on cess of the B team last mouth. the Internet offering tickets for But he has decided against prothe Wembley showpiece between Arsenal and Newcastle on May 16 at over £500.

A contributor to David Melor's football phone-in on BBC Radio Five Live also claimed that a Guernsey travel agent was quoting prices of nearly £600.

Tickets for the final range in . price from £17 to £65 for the dearest seats in the Olympic Gallery, so the FA are concerned by the claims and have pledged to look into them.

An FA spokesman, Adrian Bevington, said: "We expect tickets to be sold in the correct manner and we don't expect people to have to pay above the face value. If people want to for-ward any information to us about any reported incidents of people improperly selling tick ets, then we will look into them."

Bevington believes the problem is not widespread because the vast majority of tickets now go directly to fans who want to watch the final.

Brown loyal to senior squad Köhler confident

THE Scotland manager, Craig gians as well as the Dunfermline Brown, remained loyal to his old striker Andy Smith. Smith is the guard when he named his squad to face Finland in a World Cup Premier Division scoring charts only for the referee to stop the warm-up match next week.

ring the changes after the suc- of going to France and I aim to moting the likes of goalkeeper Jonathan Gould, Tosh McKinlay and Paul Ritchie.

Instead he has largely kept the pool of players who served Scotland so well in the World Cup qualifiers when he annomiced his squad yesterday morning at Hampden.

However, Brown brings in Donglas against the Norwe- a full game in the B team."

Scotland squads

leading Scottish player in the with 25 goals this season, Brown said: "He's got a realistic chance start him in the B team."

The B team beat Wales 4-0 last month but Dougie Freedman, Steven Pressley and Paul Telfer all drop out. David Hopkin drops down to the B squad.

Brown said: "Gould is putting pressure on the other goalkeepers, no doubt about that, and Mc-Coist has been in excellent form recently. But we want to play all our strikers in the two matchthe Dundee goalkeeper Robert es and it's best that McCoist has

Scotland squad to play Finland at Easter Road on 22

April (Hearts), Glass (Aberdeen), Hopkin (Leeds), McCann (Hearts), Rae (Sunderland); Crawford (Hibernian), Dodds (Aberdeen), Fullarion (Crystal Palacs), John-Colon, Boyd (Cettic), Caldenicod (Totterham), Storic (Sunderland), McColst (Rangers), Smith (Dunderland), McColst (Rangers), McCann (Hearts), Rae (Sunderland); Crawford (Hibernian), Dodds (Aberdeen), Fullarion (Crystal Palacs), John-Colst (Rangers), Smith (Dunderland), McColst (Rangers), McColst (Rangers),

April:
Goram (Rangers), Leighton (Aberdeen), Suttivan
(Wimbledon); Boyd (Cetilc), Caldenirood (Totterham),
Dailty (Derby County); Ethott (Leicester), Hendry
(Backburn), Weir (Fleart of Midbothen), Whyte (Aberdeen), Burley (Cetilc), Collins (Moneco), Domeelly
(Cetilo); Germmitt (Nottinglam Forest), Jess (Aberdeen), Burley (Cetilo), Collins (Rangers), McKim, Anderson (Aberdeen), Archifiald (Partick Thistie),
lary (Blackburn), McNamara (Cetilc), Booth (Boussal

Brebner (Manchester Utd), Buchan (Aberdeen),
Burchill (Cetilos), Carty (Blischtam)

lany (Blackburn): MicNemara (Cettic), Booth (Borussa: Brebner (Manchester Utd), Bucnen (Aberceen), Burchill (Cettic), Campbell (Leicester City), Carey (Brisperin (Cettic)); Carey (Brisperin (Manchester Utd)); Burchen (Aberceen); McCluskey (Brisperin (Cettic)); Carey (Brisperin (Cettic)); Carey (Brisperin (Manchester Utd)); Burchen (Aberceen); Burchill (Cettic), Campbell (Leicester City), Carey (Brisperin (Cettic)); Carey (Brisperin (Manchester Utd)); Burchen (Aberceen); Burchill (Cettic), Campbell (Leicester City), Carey (Brisperin (Cettic)); Carey (Brisperin (Cettic)); Carey (Brisperin (Manchester Utd)); Burchill (Cettic), Campbell (Leicester City), Carey (Brisperin (Cettic)); Carey (Brisperin (Cettic)); Carey (Brisperin (Cettic)); Carey (Brisperin (Manchester Utd)); Burchill (Cettic), Carey (Brisperin (Manchester Utd)); Carey (Brisperin (Manchester Utd)); Carey (Brisperin (Manchester Utd)); Carey (Brisperin (Manchester Utd)); Cettic); Cetti

Scotland fans who travelled to "the match that never was" in Estonia when Scotland kicked off game immediately because Estonia had not turned up, have been rewarded with tickets for all three of the nation's World Cup group games. Fans who travelled to three or more away qualifiers will also get tickets for all Group A matches. But long-serving

el Cluh will receive just one ticket because of severe restrictions by the French authorities. Scotland will receive just 5,000 tickers for the World Cup

members of the Scotland Trav-

opening game against Brazil in Paris on June 10 and 2,500 for each of the other two games.

of reeling in Real

JURGEN KOHLER, Borussia Dortmund's veteran defender, believes the holders can overturn a 2-0 deficit and beat Real Madrid tonight to reach their second successive European Cup final, "I don't have a bad feeling going into this match." Köhler said. "We can make it

through to the final once again." Dortmund are still hitter about what happened in the first leg of the semi-final, which started 75 minutes late because a goal collapsed after Madrid fans shook a perimeter fence to which it was attached. The German club lodged an official protest but then withdrew it after studying the regulations.

Real, who still face disciplipary proceedings, will miss two key players for tonight's second leg in Dortmund, Manuel Sanchis and Predrag Mijatovic. Defender Sanchis is suspended. no the first match.

may drop Raul after his dismal display in Saturday's 2-1 Spanish League defeat at Celta Vigo and opt for the Croatian striker Davor Suker instead.

midfielders Andreas Möller and Jörg Heinrich, who both missed the first leg through groin injuries. Julio Cesar and Steffen Freund are both suspended, while Heiko Herrlich is injured.

In the other semi-final, Monaco know that realistically they have only pride at stake after their 4-1 defeat away to Juventus. Monaco's defence will be missing the injured Martin Djetou, hut Muhamed Konjic should be fit and in midfield John Collins is hack from suspension. Juventus will be without the suspended Didier Deschamps and the injured Paolo Montero, but goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi returns after an ankle injury.

Ronaldo scored twice as Internazionale won 2-1 (4-2 on aggregate) away to Spartak Moscow in the semi-finals of the while Milatovic is injured after Uefa Cup yesterday. Andrei crashing into a television cam- Tikhonov had put the Russians Jupp Heynckes, Real's coach, tacular goal in the 12th minute, but Ronaldo scored from 10 yards just before the interval and added a second after 75 minutes following a run which took him past three players.

TODAY'S

NUMBER

3,500

The number of off-the-field

outfits ~ in French national

colours - being supplied by

Yves Saint Laurent to be

worn by referees and offi-

cials at the World Cup.

The problem Britain's hookers face

IN THE England v Ireland game a couple of weeks ago. Ireland were awarded a penalty a few yards from the England line. Instead of kicking for goal, Eric Elwood followed the prevailing fashion and kicked for touch. However, he introduced a subtle variation into the current ploy. Rather than aim for the corner or thereabouts, he deliberately kicked so that the ball would cross the touchline at a point behind his own position.

We know why he did this: it was because the wind was so strong. Nevertheless, 1 am tempted to comment that it took an Irishman to he given a penalty and to kick the ball backwards. If this gets me into trouble with the Race Rela-

the rughy illiterates in the new Twickenham stands.

at such mindless frivolity. And the attacking side rarely would run the hall from a tap penal- a free seven points is the refty in these circumstances, un-eree Tony Spreadbury, who less they were losing and there seems in other respects an afwere under 10 minutes to go, fable and engaging character, handsomely and they could ac- sity match a few seasons ago, cordingly afford to provide after persistent infringements some free entertainment.

to take a tap penalty when they a penalty try should not be are a few yards from their op-awarded for persistent breachponents' line, though not perhaps quite as reluctant as they rather, for a hreach which imused to be. But they are perfectly prepared to shunt the ly certain try. hall into touch, because they will now get the cusuing

Williams and Mark Regan. expect Britain's hookers, in around who could legally have other respects a fine body of stopped Mapletoft. men, to attain a standard of accuracy which is currently bevond England's howlers.

Besides, however accurate a hooker may he in his throwing, the line-out remains (in the words of the Bankruptcy Act) a rash and hazardous speculation. All kinds of cu- been. rious things can happen, and do. Why attacking sides do not elude me. Clean, controlled



ALA:N WATK:INS

ON RUGBY

I have not kept a count. I tions Board, I shall have to doubt whether anyone else bear it with such fortitude and has, either. In any case, rugequanimity as I can summon. by statistics - the, so-called There is, however, a seri- "stats" on which everyone ous point. If, a couple of sea- now places so much reliance sons ago, the attacking side - are, in my experience, quite were awarded a penalty with- unreliable. But my impresin 15 or so yards of their op- sion is that more tries are poneus' line, the cry would go scored from scrum's taken as up; "Run it." it would go up a result of a penalty than with particular loudness from from line-outs called for the same reason.

There are several other We old lags in the press-box matters that have perplexed would shake our heads sadly me this season. One is the penalty try. The pione er, if that is the word, in the awarding of or unless they were winning. He began it all at the Univerhy Oxford, Since then the But the paradox is this: at- plague has spread like refertacking sides are still reluctant ees flu. The short point is that es of the laws as such, hut,

I was surprised, however. when Gloucester we're not throw-in. And the side who awarded a penalty try can Sathave the throw-in, it is now as- urday after Mark Mapletoft sumed, have the possession. had been tripped up by a This is altogether too easy Newcastle player only yards an assumption. This season from the line. Richard Fall, the veral otherwise first-class. Gloucester manager, said hookers, such as Barry sportingly afterwards that he did not expect such an alward. have paid the price for its universality. It is surely unfair to still another Newcastle player

pedes the scoring of a virtual-

And yet years ago I remember wings careering sllong the touchline and having their heads almost taken off by fullhacks such as Terry Price). The invariable result would be a penalty kick at goal rather; than the penalty try it ought to have

This brings me finally to another perplexing matter the avail themselves more of op- high tackle, when it is dantion of the scrum continues to gerous, and when it is not. This also is something to which rugpossession is virtually guar- by administrators ought to he anteed. The defending for- directing their attention. Alas. wards are tied down for they are too busy quarrelling longer than they used to be. among themselves.

Sporting Digest

Athletics

The Ethiopian Abebe Mekonnen, who finished second in the 1994 London marethon, will run in this year's race on 26 April Marleen Renders, the Bedgan runner who was fourth in last year's world rankings, joins the women's field.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 6 Oakland 3: Centiand 6 Seattle 5; Taropa Bay 13 Minosota 12 (14 minos): Kensas Cây 11 Excello 1; Taxes 10 Detron 1, Pestponed; NY Yackesa v Ans-

nem. MATIONAL LEAGUE: San Francisco 6 St Lous 2: Principing 11 Allenta 9: Plosta 7 Pitisburgh 2: San Diego 1 Arroona 0: Colorado 8 Circin-native Los Angoles 3 Houston 1 Postiponesti Minimuske v NY Mets.

Basketball NEA; Indizmi 114 Chicago 105; LA Laters 99; Sar Antonio 75; Phosim 105 Golden State 97; Mirganota 107: LA Chippers B8.

Affectives a could return to the ring in Flovember if the Neveda State Athlet-te Commission gives him back the 4-

Cricket scoreboard

First-class matches (Frei day others; today: 11.30) Cambridge Univ v Northants

Oxford Univ v Sussex THE PARKS: Sussex are 182 for 4 in their Bret landings. Octord University was toss

conce it revoked for biting Evander Holyfields ear last June. A November date would probably be the earliest Tyson could fight again because of time needed to train and to arrange a bout. Tyson can apply for ren-statement on 9 July, the first anniver-

Douglas (Dundee), Gould (Cettic), Main (St Johnstone); Cleiand (Rasgers), McIntosh (Stockport), McKinlay (Cettic), Ritchie (Hearts); Cameron (Hearts), Fulton

The att-rounder ian Harvey has been added to the Australian squad for the Sharjah limited-overs tournament against India and New Zealand as cover for the injured par Shane Warne and Tom Moody. Brad Young, the South Australian sprimer, was also placed on transfer in case a second observing.

Australian spiriter, was also paced or standby in case a second player was required for the tournament, which starts on Friday.

PEPBL TRIANGULAR CUP Float (Dath): hota 227 (PB3 cvers); Australia 231 for 6 (484 overs; M G Seven 75no. S R Waugh 57). Australia when by four wickets:

Cycling Britsins Chris Boardman is 30th in the tetest world rankings issued yesterday, Laurent Jalabert of France tops the list

Debug University, when loss
SUSSEX - First Intuings
M T E Peirce c Buchanien b Mather
W G Khan b Gerland
M Newell o Wash b Earle
M Newell o Wash b Earle
K Newell not out
K Newe

Fall: 1-21 2-dt 3-dt 4-dS
To bat: 1º Moores, A A Khan, J D Lewry, R J
Kirley, M A Robinson.
Bowling fib date): Marter 13-4-25-1: Gerland
13-2-59-1; Eacte 15-7-34-2; Cockroft 10-0-270: Syrna 9-4-21-0; Wagh 41-0-11-0.

OKPORD UNIVERSITY: P Ruddwart, J G Periers, M A Wagh, B W Byrna, "J A G Ruton, J A
M Motins, D J Eacte, 1 L Buchenen, R R Gerland, D P Matther, J R Cockstoft.
Umplress: 8 Dudlesson and N Mallender.

ehead of Italian Michele Bartol and An-drei. Tchmil of Belgium, with the 1997 Tour de France winner, Jan Ullrich of Germany, fourth.

Football The Newcastle striker Andreas Andersson is one of six British-based players named in Sweden's squad for next week's friendly with France. Celtics Hernik Larsson has also been called up even though he has only scored one goal in four months for his club. The Coventry oak Manus Heal.

cauch The Coventry pair Magnus Hed-men and Roland Nisson, together with Pontus Kamark, of Leicester City, and the Rengers player Joachim Bjorklund, are the other players with British clubs who could line up against the French tri Solna near Wednesday. The Tottenham striker Jürgen Klins-mann was yesterday named in the Germany squad for their friendity with Nigeria in a World Cup warm-up match in Cologne on 22 April.

match in Cologne on 22 April.

The Lebester goalkeeper Kasey Keller has been named in the United States squed for their friendly with Austria in Vierma next Wednesday. The former QPR goalkeeper Jurgen Sommer, ex-Everton midfielder Predrag Radosavljevic and former Coventry players Cobi Jones and Roy Wegerle are also in the 18-man party.

Derby County's loor Stirrac and

are also in the 19-man party.

Derby County's ligor Stirnac and Aljosa Asanovic have been called by the coach Miroslav Blazevic for Croatia's World Cup warm-up against Potend on 22 April. Everton's Slaven.

Bitc is also included in the 21-player sould for the friendly in Osijak.

Lennart Johansson is convinced the two-way contest with Sepp Blatter for the presidency of Fits will not split the world ruling body. Johansson, the Uefa president, selid: "I will respect the result of the vote, I will behave as I always have and I will also see to it that my colleagues in the executive committee do the same."

and China on 4 June as further preparation for the World Cup finals, which begin on 10 June. The team is currently touring Europe. Dallan Wanda, the Chinese League

Dallan Wanda, the Chinese League champions, have been fined £6,000 by the Asian Football Confederations disciplinary committee for refusing to collect their medals after losing the final of the Asian Club championship to South Korea's Pohang Steelers in Hong Kong last weekend Daliants players were protesting following a controversial studen-death penalty shoot-out.

shoot-out.

Nationwide Football League attendances for the season are set to pass 13m after overtaking last year's total over the Easter holiday. Total attendances for the timee Divisions stand at 12,368,349 compared with 11,978,401 – an increase of 112 per cent, with 118 matches still to play.

LIEFA CUP SEMI-FINAL SECOND LEG

Milite O'Meara, the US Mesters cham-pion, is to make his first European PGA tour appearance at Hamburg from 29 May to 1 Juna.

May to 1 June.

Lee Westwood and Colin Montgornerie have both withcawn from this
week's MCI Classic in Hillion Head,
South Carolina.

PRESIDENTS CUP (International seam v
USA, Royal Melbourne GC, Australia, 1113 Dec) Standings (top 10 quality automaticality; each captain will have two
wild-card selections): International Team
final postbors determined by world ranking after the World Series of Golf and will not
include any player eligible for the European
Ryder Cup reemi: 1 E Ets (SA) 12:30pt; 2
G Norman (Aus) 1007; 3 N Price Cum; 852; 4
M Czald (Lapan) 800; 5 V Singh (Fi) 6:38; 6 S Bidrigton (Aus) 400; 7 F Noble (No.2) 477; 8
M McNutty (Zin) 386; 9 S Manuyeme
(Japan) 3.77; 10 C Parry (Aus) 3.25; 11 N
Draid (Lapan) 3.77; 12 S Appieby (Aus) 2.95; 13 R Goosen (SA) 2.82; 14 C Franco (Par)
2.77; 15 R Alienby (Aus) 2.77. United States

(players' points are based on office) mon-op earnings from the sant of the 1957 ses-son to the World Senes of Goth: 1 J Leonard 3,860,656: 2 II Duvid 3,964,851; 3 T Woods 542,004; 4 M O'Meara 2,801,434; 5 M Cal-carechia 2,548,55; 6 J Furyk 2,40,051; 7 S Hoch 2,957,205; 8 P Microleon 2,337,900; 9 II Love III 2365,827, 10 T Lehman 1942,070; 11 F Couples 1916,77; 12 B Maylar 1,528,07 13 S Cink 1916,77; 12 J Musion 1,511,380; 15 S Jones 1,480,878.

NHL: Buffalo 2 Philadelpine 1; Boston 3 Car-olina 2; Washington 2 NY Islanders 0; Ot-tewa 3 Tempa Bay 2; Anaheim 2 Cotorado 2 (ot); Los Angeles 4 Calgary 2.

Play was called off yesterday in the International women's championship in Makarska, Croatia after rain soaked the outdoor counts.

Makarska, Crostie after rain soaked the outdoor courts.

BARCELONA MEN'S OPEN Singles, first round: T Muster (Aut) to M Figorn (Juni 6-3 2-6 6-2 F Meligani (Bra) to F Viceria (Sp) 6-7-6-6-4. M Sain (Pus) to A Portas (Sp) 8-7-6-4-6-4. M Sain (Pus) to A Portas (Sp) 8-7-6-6-5. D Sain (Pus) to M Larsson (Swe) 6-3 6-2. D Sain (Pus) to M Larsson (Swe) 6-3 6-3. F De Wul (Bel) to H Arazi (Mor) 6-6-6-3. F Clevet (Sp) bt J Sanchez (Sp) 6-3-6-4. M Gustafrison (Swe) to M Socialen (Neth) 7-6-6-3. F Clevet (Sp) bt J Sanchez (Sp) 6-3-6-4. M Gustafrison (Swe) bt M Socialen (Neth) 7-6-6-3. F Clevet (Sp) bt J Sanchez (Sp) 6-3-6-4. M Gustafrison (Swe) bt S Schallen (Neth) 7-6-6-3. F Clevet (Sp) bt J Sanchez (Sp) 6-3-6-4. M Gustafrison (Sp) 4-6-7-6-2. A Correta (Sp) bt A Mertin (Sp) 4-6-7-6-2.

JAPAN OPEN (Toloyo) Men's singles, first round: I Heubenger (Cros) bt S Massuola (Lippan) 6-3 6-3-3. Morrorus (Lippan) 6-3 6-3-3. Nororus (Lippan) 6-3 6-3-3. Nororus (Lippan) 6-3 6-3-4. Normen's singles, first round: Weng Sh-nng (Talve) bt S Asagoe (Lippan) 7-6-6-3 6-1. N Prett (Aus) bt S Obsta (Lippan) 6-6-3-6-1. N Prett (Aus) bt S Obsta (Lippan) 7-6-6-3 6-1. N Prett (Aus) bt S Obsta (Lippan) 7-6-6-3 6-1. N Prett (Aus) bt S Obsta (Lippan) 7-6-6-3 6-1. N Prett (Aus) bt S Obsta (Lippan) 7-6-6-3 6-1. N Prett (Aus) bt S Obsta (Lippan) 7-6-6-3 6-1. N Prett (Aus) bt S Obsta (Lippan) 7-6-6-3 6-1. N Prett (Aus) bt S Obsta (Lippan) 7-6-6-3 6-1. N Prett (Aus) bt S Obsta (Lippan) 7-6-6-3 6-1. N Prett (Aus) bt S Obsta (Lippan) 7-6-6-3 6-1. N Prett (Aus) bt S Obsta (Lippan) 7-6-6-3 6-1. N Prett (Aus) bt S Obsta (Lippan) 7-6-6-3 6-1. N Prett (Aus) bt S Obsta (Lippan) 7-6-6-3 6-1. N Prett (Aus) bt S Obsta (Lippan) 7-6-6-3 6-1. N Prett (Aus) bt S Obsta (Lippan) 7-6-6-3 6-1. N Prett (Aus) bt S Obsta (Lippan) 7-6-6-3 6-1. N Prett (Aus) bt S Obsta (Lippan) 7-6-6-3 6-1. N Prett (Aus) bt S Obsta (Lippan) 7-6-6-3 6-1. N Prett (Aus) bt S N Pretto (Pan) 20-11. N Prett (Aus) bt S Obsta (Lippan) 7-6-6-3 6-1. N Prett (Aus) bt S Obsta (Lippan) 7-6-6-3 6-1. N Prett (A

3. Mr Walt 20-1. 7 ran. 5, 8. (J Old). Tota: 6140; 5140; 5180. DF: 5160; CSF: 5187. NF: Let's Go.

2.40: 1. PRINCE OF SAINTS OF GAOD

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Racing results

2.05: 1. CAPPAL R. Faloni 13-9 fair; 2. Lau-regidde 20: 1; 3. Joint Regant 8-1: 19 ran. 7.5 in Choir Research; Totae 22:0. 5:40: 200: 22:90. Dust Forecast; 20:00. Computer Shaght Porecast; 13-54. Tho: 25-640 2.35: 1. Temburgnow W. Faloni 70-1; 2.

Shapit Forecast 13614 Thro. 236.01

2.35: 1 TERRIPAROW (F FROM 17-12)
Cretim Gitt (2-): 3. Decetime 13-8 fat. 19
(Mt. 1 /r. Nr. & Astron Loopani; Total 15-9;
2.201 15.40; 15.50 DF: 128.50 CSF: 17156
Thr. 15.201 NR. Terriba.

3.10: 1. CLOUID GASTILE (J Fren) 35-1;
2. Ambranish 5-2: 3. Johe 5-2. 7 fat. 2-1 fav.
Exclusive (ath): 1 /r. Tr. (C British, New-market, Total (3-10) ESD (16). 1F. 227.40

CSF: 15.155: 187: Ungestiz.

2.46: 1. JRLA (P Hee): 8-2 fat. 2. Lido
12-1. 3. Tismbleweed Hero 10-1. 4. Julies
Jered 47: 21 fat. 5. Rt. (R Armstorig.
Neutranies): Rote: 18.00, 12.20, 12.40, 12.50

A.16: 1. EARRESSEAN MONARCH (N R
Switzen): 3-1: 2. Rayword: 35-1; 3. Premium
Rate 5-2: 15 ram. 13-5 fav. Chofmin (6th): rk.
1. (M Storie; Reservation): Total 16:30): rk.
1. (M Storie; Reservation): Total 16:30)

ran. 2 hd. (M. Stoute, Neumarker). Toke: \$250: \$240; \$1430; \$250. DF: \$20470. CSF-\$71426; Tox: \$89700 (part won. \$258354 to Neumarket \$40 tokay). NF: Wave Pascer \$445: 1. DARING DEFIEK (K. Fallon). 1-2 fav; 2. Milatter Rambo 2-1; 3. Khaled 16-1, 3 tran. 5, 26. (D. Loder, Neumarker). Tota: \$120. DF: \$150. CSF: \$157. Jacknott, not won (pool of \$90,27555 car-

Jackpot: not won (pool of £90,276,85 car-ned forward to Newmarket today). Piacepot: £13000. Quadpot: £26,20. Piace 6: £14478. Place 5: £81.46. EXETER-2.25: 1. LAYITONTHELINE (TO'Cornor)

2.25: 1. LATHOW HILLING (1 OCCUR) 20-1; 2. Asking 10-1; 3. Circle of Magic 4 19 pm; 2-1 fav Never in Debt (4th) 11/s, 10. (R Frost) Total E2190; 1260; 1200; 1210; DF: 10240; CSF: £18401; Tricast; £78610; Tric

FIG. PLOC 2300 OF: ESSO CSF: EDZB. (IID: FIG.O. 3.30: 1. CAPENWRAY (W.Marson) 11-4. It fav. 2. Hewalian Youth '2-1; 3. Garethson 11-4. It fav. 6 yan. 2. 4. (J. King). Tota: EDGC 2500, EDG. GSF: EZGG. 4.08: 1. SAXON DUKE (Mr H. Widger) 4-1; 2. The Hatcher 16-1; 3. Brook Bee 12-

1 11 ran. 9-4 fav Begelind. 5, 2%. (P Hobes), Tote: 54,90; 52,50; 68,30; 51,90; DF: 526,50; CSP: 556,77; Tricast: 5546,22. Tric: 5251,40 (part won, pool of 52,1954 to New-market 340 foday). 4,36: 1, ANGELO'S DOUBLE (B Powell)

South Korea will play Jamaica on 16 and 19 May, Casch Republic on 27 May

4.35: 1, ANGELO'S DOLBBLE (B Powel)
14-1; 2. Defenditherealth 5-2 It fay; 3. Countrymaeter 8-1 7 ran. 5-2 It fay; 3. Countrymaeter 8-1 7 ran. 5-2 It fay; 6. The Bill
5. D. (R Buckler) Totre 22000; 25.70, 21.40.
DF: C2400. CSF: 24901
5.05-1, SUNPRISE SPECIAL (S Burrough)
12-1; 2. Heart 5-1; 3. Portock Castle 4-1.
11 ran. 9-4 fay Merawarg, 3/h. 1, 1 P Roctord). Totre: 29:70, 23:40, 22:20, 22:60. DF:
C28:30. CSF: 257:9-Tocast; 278:508. Tho:
C86:70.

Placepot: \$124.60. Quadpot: \$1510. Place 6: \$454.75. Place 5: \$137.34.

UTTOXETER

2.15: 1. APRIL SEVENTH IN WE

11-2; 2. Michigan Blue 11-1; 3. Silent Val-ley 9-2 6 ran. 6-4 far Perrose Lad. 4 %. U Newdo). Tota: 5340; 2200; 2240. DF: C2870. CSF: 24867. 2.45: 1. LORD RELIC (Mr S Durack) 1-2 iev; 2. Oouble Collect 8-1; 3. Andermatt 8-1. 10 ran. 30, 5 (5 Brookshew) Tota: \$160; £220, \$140, £200, £0F; £320, £5F; £437. Tric: £330, \$200; 1, £6AY RUFFIAN (Mass C Dyson)

Princess 2-1; 4, Damier Bienc 9-1 16 rm. 9-2 J fav Tesi Match. 31/r, 1 (Miss C Dyson). Toss: C3530; E350, E250, C370, C250, DF: E160.20, C5F: C74.85 Tricest: C1870.63. NS: Gurmaler, Tudor Falcon, Tro: C284.10 (part won, C240.16 to Newmarket 3-40 today). 3.65: 1, BRIGHTER SHADE (F Newn) 9-1; 2, Bearbling Boy 5-2; 3, Soarbling 4; 2. Barrageera Boy 5-2; 3. Sperkling Cone 11-8 km, 4 rsn. 1, 7. (Mrs M Reveley). Tota: £340, DF: \$450, CSF: £750.

den Jockey.

4.56: 1. BOLD DOLPHIN (A Thorrism) 4-6 tex; 2. Trouveille 11-4; 3. Joby Boat 12-1 5 ran. 5, dat. (T Forster), Tote: \$150; \$130; \$100. OF: \$180. CSF: \$224.

5.30: 1. MAURANG! (Mr. S Durack) 7-1; 2. Time For Action 7-2; 3. Kniadross 50-1 13 ran. 5-6 tex Crockedetons. 12. 2%. (B Murray). Tote: \$740; \$230. \$160. \$580. DF: \$1370. CSF: \$230. \$160.

This: \$220.60.
Piecepot: \$469.00. Quartipot: \$24.80.
Piece 6: \$267.5. Piece 5: \$30.07. WETHERBY 2.10: 1. SUPREME GENOTIN (M A Pitzgeraki) 4-9 fav. 2. Southern Cross 9-2;

2.40: 1, PRINCE OF SAINTS (F Garriy) 9-4 faz; 2, Moss Pageant 13-2; 3, Ham NEggs 13-2 6 ran. ½, 11/. (M Hammond). Tota: 53:00; 51:70, 52:20, 51:40, DF: 513:40, CSF: 513:1, Ticost: 57:527.
3.15: 1, TEN MALE HILL (Richard Guest). 11-2; 2, White Hand 7-2; 3, Executive Department of the control 4.25: 1, BRIGHT NOVEMBER (S Wyrne) 4-5 fev; 2. House of Dresms 2-1; 3. Punish 8-1 4 ren. 26, 30 (D Gandollo). Total sign 9-2. 6 ran. 100-30 fav Fen Terrier (4th). 7, hd. (Mrs S Smith). Tota: £550; £290, £250. DF: £1:30, CSF: £2266. 3.50: 1. NOOSA SOUND (R Supple) 6-£170 DF: £170 CSF: £268 Non Runner: h-1; 2. Mister Btake 11-4; 3. Sireric 15-8 fav. 5 ran. 10. fs. (L. Lungo). Tote: £680; £210, £140 DF: £1230 CSF: £2108 NR: Share Op-

12740 NR: Monicas Choice

4.20: 1. LAST OPTION (Mrs F Needham)

By Glenn Moore

IT IS customary before England matches for Glerin Hoddle to be photographed with a stereotypical symbol of their opponents - a pizza before Italy, a string of onions and a beret before France, a sombrero for

Next week's Wembley friendly with Portugal would thus give the snappers the welcome opportunity to buy a bottle of port on expenses but, on this occasion, a big carrot and large stick would be more appropriate. For those props would, to judge from the England coach's squad announcements vesterday, best illustrate his approach to both Wednesday's full international and

59 call-ups, 34 for the senior squad. That party includes five goalkeepers, several players nursing or returning from injury such as Ian Wright, Martin Keown, Tim Flowers, Les Ferdinand and Paul Gascoigne, and the uncapped trio Kevin Pressman, Ray Parlour and Dominic

Yet it is the 25-strong squad for the B match, to be played at Loftus Road, which offers the biggest carrots, to Matt Le Tissier and Darren Anderton.

Having given so many World Cup hopefuls the prospect of a place in the final 22 Hoddle then wielded the stick. Barring serious injury all players will be expected to join up with their squads on Sunday or risk saying au revoir to a summer in France.

Hoddle, who lost nine players to injury before last Tuesday's B match with Russia. month's friendly in Switzerland. said: "Unless they are in hos-The carrot was a staggering

pital I don't envisage anybody pulling out of this squad. If they do they will be foolish. Everything next week will he done with one eye on choosing the 22 for the World Cup. It is a problem for players if they do

not come. This three-line whip will not 20 down well with clubs involved in championship, promotion and relegation battles, but Hoddle said: "I'm not asking for

England squads

England squad to play Portugal at Wembley on 22 April Seaman (Arsenel), Martyn (Leeds), Walker (Totterhem), Flowers (Blackburn), Pressman (Shafi Wed), Southgate (Aston Vita), G Neville (Manchester Lifd, P Neville (Man Utd), Campbell (Totterhem), Adams (Arsenel), Keonan (Avsenel), R Ferdinand (West Ham), Le Saux (Cheksel), Hincheilife (Shaff Wed), Pearce (Newcastle), Marten (Lassron).

(Newcastle) McManaman (Liverpool), Sharingsam (Man. Uto), Cole (Man Uto), Shearer (Newcastle), Dublin (Coverny), Owen (Liverpool), Merson (Middlesbrough), L

much, three months before the World Cup finals, to get a recipients of Hoddle's letter

All clubs and plnyers inoutlining Hoddle's views and he added: "The clubs are aware of the situation and so are the players. They have got to have a genuine problem, an injury which travelling would hinder, not to

group of players together to talk are Le Tissier and Anderton. Le Tissier was last seen in an England shirt being substivolved have been sent a letter tuted an hour into the home defeat by Italy 14 months ago. He dropped out of the next squad with injury and has not featured since. Hoddle, who was heavily criticised for championing Le Tissier, was reluc-

tant to discuss his call-up

England B squart to play Russia B at Lotus Road on 21 April

a look at his situation, if I get four or five players of a similar mould getting injured I need to know where I am

Since even Hoddle's injuryprone squads are unlikely to lose five players in one position his recall may have more to do with Hoddle's concern at the lack of creativity England have shown in the last two Gascoigne-less matches.

Anderton has never played for Hoddle. Indeed, such have been his injury problems he has only been called up once, for the first match in September 1996, and then he withdrew. "He is back playing and, like Wright and Ferdinand, he has time to get fit," said Hoddle. Anderton had a sparkling Euro 96 despite having missed much of the previous season but it is asking a lot to expect him to get

beyond saying: "I need to have sharp enough to play in World Cup.

Nick Barmby is also in the B squad, as is Ipswich's David Johnson - a target for Jamaica - but Jamie Redknapp reverts to the senior side where he will be considered as a midfielder, not a sweeper. There are also senior recalls for Stuart Pearce, who last played in Le Tournoi, and Ian Walker.

Chris Sutton remains beyoud the pale while Dennis Wise will take no satisfaction from being proved right in believing Hoddle will not pick him.

Portugal are, said Hoddle, the best side not to have qualified for the World Cap". He has enlisted the help of Graeme Souness, now managing Benfica, to aid preparation for a match which, after a defeat and a draw. England need to

United's bid for Stam stutters

By Andrew Martin

A DUTCH auction for a Dutch defender is the last thing Manchester United wanted to enter when they tabled a £10m offer. for PSV Eindhoven's Jaap Stam, but yesterday Stam's club were still refusing to lower their asking price of £15m for the Netherlands international.

Martin Edwards, the United chairman, made the offer during negotiations in Eindhoven last week and he feels it is a fair price for the Netherlands' player of the year.

"I think what we have done is come up with an offer which we believe is the right offer, Edwards said. The last thing we want is to be involved in a Dutch auction. We have made our bid and we're now waiting for an answer from them. They have promised us a reply in the next wo weeks."

PSV, though, claim United's offer for the coveted 25year-old is not good enough. They are resigned to losing Stam, who is under contract until 2003, because he wants to move to Old Trafford, but they are determined there will be no cut-price deal.

Pedro Salazar-Hewitt, the PSV spokesman, said: "Our president and Mr Edwards know what our price is and we're not going to offer Stam to Manchester, It is now up to Mr Edwards to come back to us or else no deal will happen." PSV dismissed suggestions

that they will accept United's offer if Stam agrees to waive his 15 per cent cut of the transfer fee. They also ruled out a player plus cash deal which would see United's Dutch midfielder, Jordi Cruyff, moving in the opposite direction.

For his part, Cruyff, who has just recovered from his third injury of the season, ruled out a move to PSV. "There is alw solutely no chance of me going back to Holland," he said.

Newcastle-United moved to repair their tainted image yesterday by appointing Alistair Wilson as director of communications. Wilson opted for early retirement from his post as managing director of Newcastle Breweries to take up the newly ing the rift with fans following the allegations surrounding former directors Freddie Shepherd and

Douglas Hall. : In a statement, Wilson said: "I will be liaising between the football club and the community, of which I'm delighted to be a part, and believe I can improve

However, almost the first action of the man charged with. responsibility for public affairs was to turn down a request from

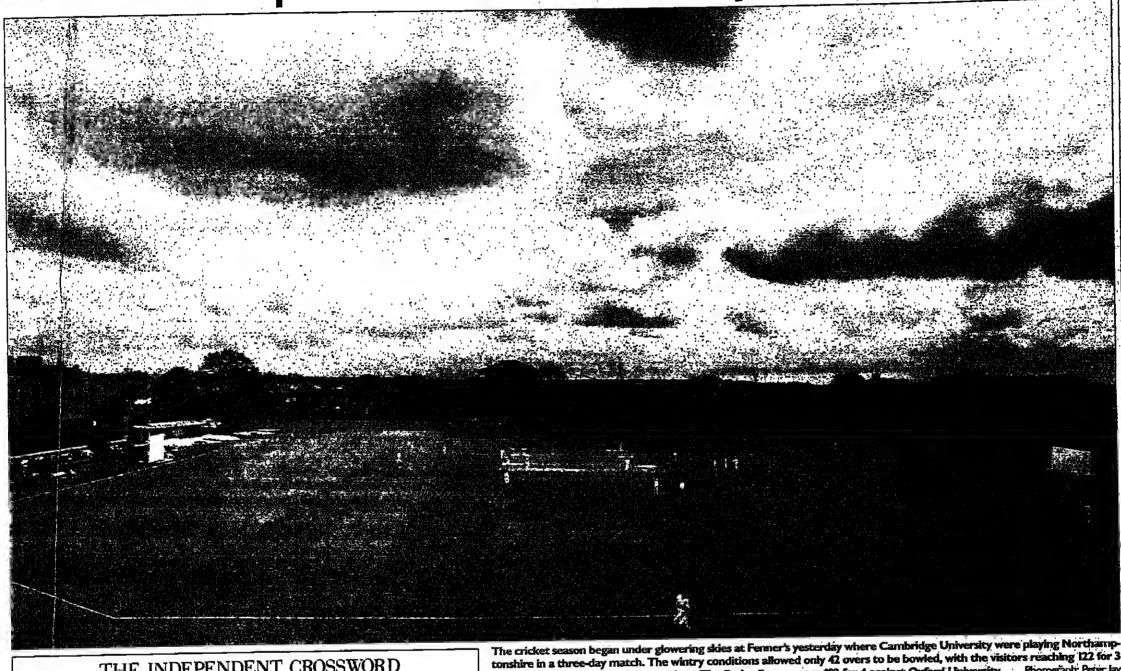
the more trying jobs in football secretary, Dennis Gethin, Seythat is Stan Collymore to con-

Yesterday Gregory said the cluh's record £7m signing had "messed about for long enough" in a season in which the striker had scored just eight goals. -

Gregory said: "He's got to come back flying and flat out on 15 August and get a good season under his belt. He has wasted a couple of years. He's wasted a year here at Villa but in his last year at Liverpool he also wasn't that endearing to Roy Evans, the fans or the media. He has messed about for long enough. The years soon go and Stan doesn't want to look back and think if only.

he's played under me he's delivered the goods. He's set his standards and the next European Championships have got to be a target for him."

Cricket's opener is clouded by the elements



THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

The Welsh keep chalet Charles converted?

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sacred writings (5)

14 This country keeps it in mind (7)Thomas s first grounds for disloyalty (7) Complex girl, to

choose painter (7)

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Stable seat in Cambridge, for example (5) Group of players moving on, taking bag (5) Gibbon hairs on it, possibly? (9) 26 Rush in rain (13)

olant (9)

DOWN Curtains introduce this span (9) Weak cockcrow? (5) Virginal name for cow

High Street retailer who puts note in box?

Irreverence of clergies Fancied daughter used a-wavering (9) a juice-extractor (7) Name given to border Variety of crone's potof lawn, sometimes (5) Clue to "glibness" that

has advantages and dis-advantages (5,8) Angle willing to take Lincoln. possibly? (8.5) Real gold, in that case.

receives endless credit 17 Pleasing import from Italy (9) 19 Ventilates joint that

could be dirigible (7) Cash down is up in warehouse (7) Keeper and England's opener worn out (5) Tubby Porter (5)

a Problemed by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5OL, and protect at Micror Colour Print. St. Back issues waitable from Historic Newspapers, 01988 \$48570 oday 15 April 1998 Registered as a newspaper with the Proc Californ

at the close. In the day's other match, at The Parks, Sussex were 182 for 4 against Oxford University. Photograph: Peter Jay Authorities fine teenager

were discovered in his system.

Peter Gilchrist, a former world

Snooker

PAUL HUNTER hocame the most prominent player to be penalised for failing a drugs test when he was yesterday fined £4.550 by the sport's governing body and docked 1,140 ranking

after positive drugs test

The 19-year-old from Leeds, winner of the Welsh Open tournament four months ago and ranked 43 in the world, tested positively for marijuana during the Grand Prix at Bournemouth in October.

He was one of three players vesterday punished by the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association's disciplinary committee in Bristol.

Stephen Ormerod, the world No 308, was fined £800, with £200 costs, after traces of marijuana and Nor-andosterone

and UK hilliards champion. was fined £100, with costs of £150. His offence was to use a cold cure that contained the hanned substance pseudoephedrine. The tests on both were taken at the Benson and Hedges Championship at Malvern in October. It is the second time that

Hunter has appeared before a disciplinary tribunal. In January 1996 he was fined £2,500, with £2,000 suspended for a year, for hringing the game into disrepute. He has failed to qualify for the Embassy World Championship, which starts in Sheffield on Saturday.

The biggest fine issued in the sport is Ronnie O'Sullivan's £20,000 punishment for assaulting an official during the 1996 World Championship.

Leading Welsh clubs suspend strike action after Union talks

Rugby Union

THE leading Weish clubs last night scrapped threatened strike action that could have halted Saturday's Premier Division programme. Urgent talks between leading Welsh Rugby Union officials and clubs' representative, Eddie Jones, averted the ultimate sanction being taken.

The Premier Division teams are incensed at being asked to sign new 10-year WRU loyalty agreements, believing that their names might not be put forward for next season's European competitions if they do not.

Badiy-needed funding and are other key issues worrying the led to yesterday's meeting between Jones, the WRU chairman, Glanmor Griffiths, and the chances in doubt.

en of the eight Premier Division clubs made 10-year loyalty pledges last year, but the WRU now requires new updated versions to be signed. Meanwhile, the national side

could be denied the services of three key players for their summer tour to South Africa. Wales' record points scorer, Neil Jenkins, Scott Gibbs and the full-back prospect Kevin Morgan might all miss the proposed five-match trip through

Jenkins needs an operation to remove a plate from the arm he fractured against England last season, while his Pontypridd next season's fixture structure : colleague, Morgan, is considering surgery for persistent clubs, whose grave concerns shoulder problems. Gibbs has neck and shoulder trouble, putting the Swansea centre's

Dark days for the bookie who paid out on United

red half of Manchester are not time. the only ones monitoring Premiership title with an eye on the bank balance.

Red-faced and out of pockbookmaker, who is clinging to the hope that United will retain the end of the season." the championship to spare him

Arsenal's late march on the shops throughout the North publicity, thankyou very much. on a brave, not red, face, howand in Wales, made headlines et could be Fred Done, a local the title could collect their tain their momentum - they played there's still hope," he lin's rather than the Bawinnings two months before were 4-1 winners at Blackburn said.

away leaders and Done's pay-out £200,000.-Done, the proprietor of 115 of around £50,000 was all good

when he announced that pun-surge for the title and should waving any white flags yet and would affect his holiday plans. ters who had backed United for the north Londoners main- while there's games still to be "This year I'm going to Bnt-Such apparent generosity United for the championship, on the championship again and

on Easter Monday - and pip the embarrassment of having to did not, at the time, seem too Done could be done and dust- we're now going 1-3 Arsenal to

Yesterday Done was putting

Then came Arsenai's late ever. "I'm sure Fergie's not

"We've had to start betting Live.

anything can happen, as you've-

But Done did concede that dipping into his pocket again hamas," he told BBC.Radio 5

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the insh in

the perception of the club."

Radio Five Live for an interview. The Aston Villa manager. John Gregory, also has one of in getting the mercurial talent

sistently perform at his best.

"But on the few occasions

ALEX FERGUSON and the payout on the race for a second misplaced as United were run- ed to the tune of another win it and 9-4 United But

seen with Arsenal recently."